SATURDAY SPECIAL / G1

Robin Padilla goes from over-the-top to Urian awardee

NEWS/ A8-A9

Complete list of new doctors here; top performing medical schools listed

SPORTS / A21

RP-Bacolod nips Lat Am batters to gain semis in World Series

North Korea preparing to test nuke–US media

SEOUL—RECLUSIVE NORTH KOREA, WHICH last month defied the international community by test-firing missiles, could now be preparing its first test of a nuclear bomb, media in the United States cited US officials as saying.

Analysts said on Friday North Korea could be trying an even more extreme form of saber-rattling

NORTH/ A6

Frogs, lizards nature's way of fighting dengue

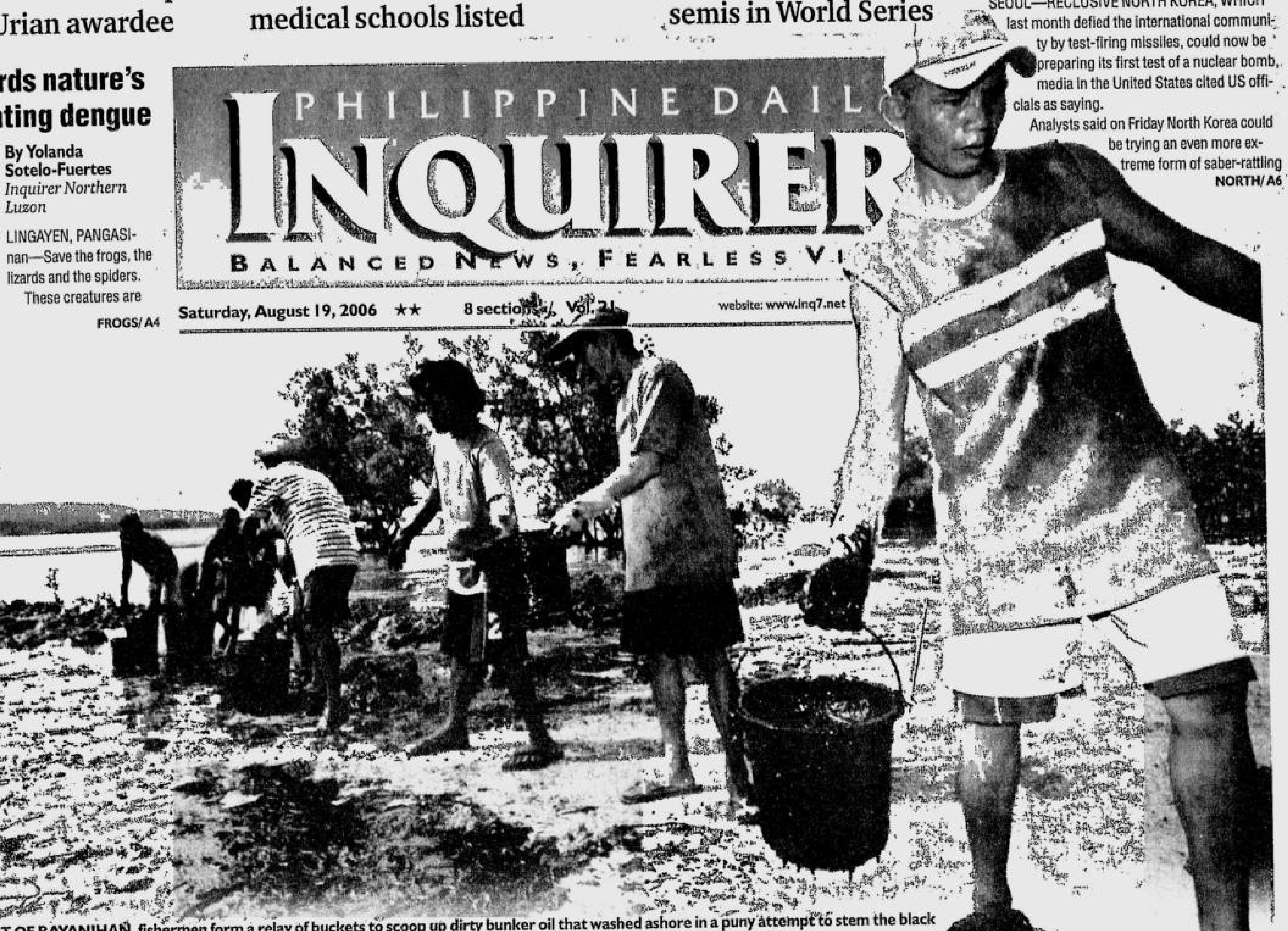
NATURAL NA KAAWAY NG LAMOK YAN!

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
Inquirer Northern Luzon

LINGAYEN, PANGASINAN—Save the frogs, the lizards and the spiders. These creatures are

FROGS/ A4

PHILIPPINE DAIL
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VI
Saturday, August 19, 2006 ★★ 8 sections Vol. 21 website: www.inq7.net



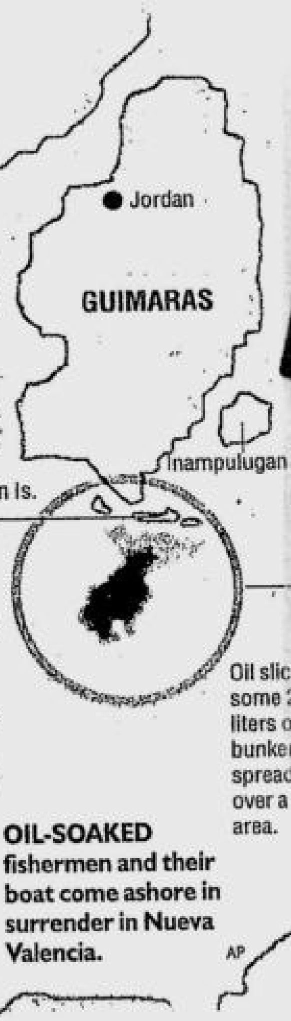
IN THE SPIRIT OF BAYANIHAN, fishermen form a relay of buckets to scoop up dirty bunker oil that washed ashore in a puny attempt to stem the black tide of deadly pollutants that spilled from a tanker off Guimaras Island. Their efforts were no match against an oil slick of 200,000 liters. AP

Big sea cleanup ordered

Ships sent to Guimaras to defuse 'ecological time bomb'

DROWNED IN OIL, this once majestic Kingfisher is no more. AP

OIL-SOAKED fishermen and their boat come ashore in surrender in Nueva Valencia. AP


ILOILO
Jordan
GUIMARAS
Nampulugan Is.
Guiuanon Is.
Oil slick with some 200,000 liters of bunker oil spreading over a wide area.
NEGROS OCCIDENTAL

DEAD coral snakes turn up in what used to be a marine sanctuary off Guimaras.

INFOGRAPHIC: E.SAMBO / L.A.RIBA / B.CABRIDO

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr., Carla P. Gomez, Jhunnex Napallacan,
Inquirer Visayas
and Leila B. Salaverria
in Manila

JORDAN, GUIMARAS—Seeking to defuse what experts warned was a ticking ecological time bomb, President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered the deployment of more ships, equipment and personnel to check what has become the country's worst oil spill disaster.

The presidential order came as Philippine Coast Guard officials yesterday said they had no capacity to salvage the sunken tanker MT Solar 1 off Guimaras Island or stop the leaking of bunker oil into the seas.

The PCG and the environmental group Greenpeace called on

BIG SEA/ A5

Kalinga cop chief gets the boot over killings

By Luige A. del Puerto

THE CHIEF OF THE KALINGA POlice has been relieved of his post by Philippine National Police Director General Oscar Calderon in a move aimed at "creating a climate of trust" between investigators and the kin of victims of political killings.

Calderon sacked Supt. Pedro Ramos as the Arroyo administration was drawing flak from the global Christian community and Amnesty International for its inability to check the wave of killings in the countryside.

It was the first time for the PNP chief to sack a police official as a direct result of the killings. He had earlier said he was closely monitoring the progress of the investigations, and warned field commanders that their jobs were on the line.

Calderon said the action against Ramos was intended to show the kin of Alice Omengan-Claver, the Bayan Muna coordi-

KALINGA COP/ A4

US federal judge halts wiretapping

DETROIT—A FEDERAL JUDGE ordered the Bush administration on Thursday (Friday in Manila) to halt the National Security Agency's program of domestic eavesdropping, saying it violated the US Constitution.

The ruling marked a setback for the Bush administration, which has defended the program as an essential tool in its war on terrorism.

Federal Judge Anna Diggs Taylor ordered a permanent injunction barring the Terrorist Surveil-

US FEDERAL/ A6

WINGS OVER CANDABA SWAMPS

Slain cameraman found heaven on earth

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

HEAVEN ON EARTH.

This was how RPN 9 cameraman Ralph Runez described the Candaba Swamp and Wildlife Preserve in Pampanga, where he saw thousands of wild birds the first time he visited the area in February this year.

Runez journeyed to the 70-hectare nature reserve with colleagues from the nongovernment organization, Kaakbay (Katipunan ng mga Anak ng Bayan) Citizen's Development Initiatives Inc. including executive director Alain Del B. Pascua and deputy executive director Orlando V. Balbido.

"He never imagined that a place like Candaba existed in the Philippines," Balbido recounted. "In Manila Zoo, you'd see these birds in cages. But not in Candaba, where over 90 species of migratory, endemic and resident birds congregate."

Visiting bird watchers and naturalists have visited Candaba—which was declared a bird sanctuary in 2004—reporting sightings of birds such as Garganey, Egret, Chinese Pond Heron, Siberian Rubythroat, Peregrine Falcon, Grass Owl and the Kingfisher.

These migratory birds fly thousands of kilometers, across conti-

SLAIN/ A6

GMA lawyer on poll raps: Hearsay

By Jerome Aning and Norman Bordadora

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARroyo's election lawyer yesterday belittled the statements of two men claiming fraud in the 2004 presidential poll, saying it was too late to lodge any protest concerning that exercise.

"The prescribed period to question the results of the presidential election has already passed. Nobody can undo President's Arroyo's victory anymore," Romulo Macalintal told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Macalintal also said the alleged doctoring of votes in Ms Arroyo's favor would not shake her

GMA LAWYER/ A4

Court stops new nurses' oath-taking

By Armand N. Nocum and TJ Burgonio

STEPPING INTO THE CONTROVERSY, THE Court of Appeals yesterday stopped for at least 60 days the planned Aug. 22 mass oath-taking of some 17,000 students who passed the scandal-ridden nursing exams so as not to preempt its judgment on the merits of the case.

In a move that coincided with the court's temporary restraining order (TRO), Sen. Richard Gordon called for the resignation of Professional Regulation Commisson Chair Leonor Tripon-Rosero for giving clearance to the oath-taking of the examinees even before the Senate and the National Bureau of Investigation could wrap up their investigation into allegations of leakage of test questions.

The resolution issued by the appellate court's special third division was silent on the oaths already taken by more than 2,000 examinees upon getting the PRC go-signal but

COURT/ A6

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Central and Northern Luzon will experience occasional monsoon rains becoming widespread over Northern Luzon which may trigger flash floods and landslides. Rest of Luzon will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have cloudy skies with rainshowers.

COMPILED BY KATE PEDROSO, PDI RESEARCH/08/18/06 SOURCE PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	**Iloilo/Bacolod**	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Rains	**Roxas**	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Rains	**Cebu**	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Rains	**Tacloban**	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	**Gen. Santos**	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	**Zamboanga**	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	**Cagayan de Oro**	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	**Davao**	Partly Cloudy

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Army holds plan to defang Rangers

By Dona Pazzibugan

AMID REPORTS OF DISSATISFACTION AMONG the affected troops, the Army's plan to downsize its elite commando units—the Special Forces Regiment-Airborne (SFR) and the First Scout Ranger Regiment (FSRR)—is to undergo "further study."

"There is nothing final. There's no time frame for this because this cannot be rushed. It should not be haphazard," said the commander of the Special Operations Command (Socom) Maj. Gen. Benito Ramos.

The plan is to reduce the SFR and the FSRR to a mere battalion each from the current three battalions and an independent company each.

The Army chief, Lt. Gen. Romeo Tolentino, ordered a study of the Socom downsizing two weeks ago, according to an officer who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Tolentino believes that downsizing would diminish the capability of these elite forces to launch another coup d'etat, the source said.

Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, the dismissed commander of the FSRR, and 24 officers and 125 soldiers, as well as former Marine commandant Maj. Gen. Renato Miranda and 12 of his officers are facing possible court-martial for the attempted Feb. 24 coup.

Ramos said the coup deterrent was not the reason for the planned downsizing.

"It's not like that. This is for the good of the unit," he said.

"This is a study to optimize the utilization of [the Socom's] forces," he added.

Tolentino could not be reached for comment yesterday. But according to the source, Tolentino wanted to have the results of the study before the end of the month.

Ramos said the planned downsizing was being undertaken for "a number of reasons," such as the perception that the Socom might be too big or that its units might be too widely deployed.

Ramos himself said he did not think that the Socom was too big.

"We don't like to interpret other reasons for (the study)," he said.

However, the planned downsizing threatens to backfire as troops belonging to the two highly specialized units are reportedly questioning why they are being punished for the "misdeeds of a misguided few."

"Many of our troops who are mostly in the field have lost their drive" after hearing the news of yet another downsizing of their units, the source said.

After the July 2003 Oakwood mutiny, the SFR was downsized from nine battalions to just three battalions while the FSRR was reduced to three battalions from six.

Tolentino was the Army chief of staff at the time.

The source said that a number of those who were disbanded from the SFR and the FSRR in 2004 chose early retirement rather than be parted from their unit.

This is a manifestation of the cohesiveness and organizational pride among elite troops who go through highly-specialized and dangerous training and missions, he said.

The FSRR was disbanded after the December 1989 coup, one of whose leaders was Lim, who was a captain at the time. It was reactivated in 1991 to fight communist insurgents.

"Many of the troops say that this is unfair to those who did not move and who stayed loyal to the Constitution and their oath of service," said the source.

"The most effective deterrent to a coup is to fast-track the court-martial and determine who are guilty and jail them. Downsizing is not the solution because even one platoon or one squad can attempt a coup d'etat," he added.

Based in Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija, Socom is composed of three units—the Special Forces under Col. Arturo Ortiz, the Scout Rangers under Col. Reynaldo Mapagu and the Light Reaction Battalion under Lt. Col. Danilo Pamonag.

Ortiz declined to comment while Mapagu, who took over from Lim, said he did not know anything about the planned downsizing.

Loi laments Palace clinic transfer

By TJ Burgonio

OPPOSITION SEN. LUISA EJERCITO YESterday questioned President Macapagal-Arroyo's decision to relocate the Malacañang medical clinic from the main Palace building to the highly restricted Presidential Security Group compound. *(Related story on Page A18)*

The move, which took effect last Thursday, "further alienated the Palace occupants" from the people and "showed their indifference to the plight of the poor who are badly in need of medical attention and who are the clinic's main beneficiaries," said Ejercito.

The clinic was a pet project of Ejercito, a medical doctor, during the short-lived presidency of her husband, deposed President Estrada.

"I cannot understand why the government of Mrs. Arroyo appears to be totally indifferent to the health condition of our countrymen. Was she too busy or simply heartless as it was not in her nature to care for the less fortunate?" the senator said in a statement.

She said that with the move to the PSG hospital inside the highly restricted PSG headquarters, the clinic would virtually restrict its services to PSG personnel and their family members.

"Instead of showing even superficial concern for the plight of our poor compatriots, Mrs. Arroyo has again revealed herself as only interested in those guarding her day and night," Ejercito said.

As First Lady from 1998 to January 2001, Ejercito oversaw the operations of the clinic and helped to update its equipment.

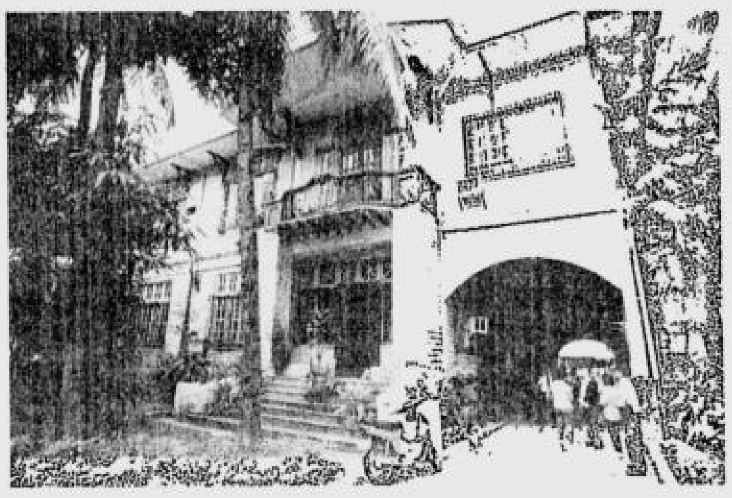
She said she worked for the acquisition of more than a dozen dialysis machines.

She said it was the poor in Metro Manila and the provinces who "availed of the clinic's services."

Ejercito is now asking that the "excess" dialysis machines donated to the clinic during her husband's term be turned over to her.

"They might as well release the machines to me so I can have them distributed to hospitals that need them. Anyway, it was through my efforts and that of President Erap that they were acquired," she said.

"Had the power not been illegally grabbed" from her husband, who was toppled in military-backed people power uprising in 2001 over charges of corruption and incompetence, Ejercito said she would have installed at least one dialysis machine in every public hospital for the poor.



DIALYSIS patient Rosemarie, 22, with mother Llonora Gallardo and other patients appeal to President Macapagal-Arroyo to stop the relocation of the Malacañang Clinic (at right) where they can have dialysis treatment for free. ERIK ARAZAS

Seek Hezbollah help on OFWs, gov't urged

By Norman Bordadora

THE GOVERNMENT WOULD DO BETTER BY coordinating with the Hezbollah group concerning the plight of Filipinos working in Lebanon, according to a member of a peace mission to the war-torn country.

More than the Lebanese government, the Hezbollah had empathy for the migrant worker and the capacity to look after Filipino workers in their territory, said Walden Bello, a sociology professor at the University of the Philippines.

"I suggest that the (Philippine) embassy talk to the Hezbollah and convince them to allocate some funds for the protection of the migrant workers," said Bello, a member of an International Civil Society-Parliamentary Peace Mission to Lebanon.

Bello and two other members of the Philippine contingent of the mission—Anak Mindanao Rep. Mujiv Hataman and Herbert Docena of the Stop the War Coalition-Philippines—told a news conference yesterday that Filipino domestic workers were treated "almost like slaves" by Lebanese employers.

Bello claimed it was mainly the Hezbollah, not the Lebanese government, that was undertaking the rebuilding of Lebanon in the aftermath of the conflict with Israel.

"If I were the government, I'd talk to the Hezbollah. It has a social infrastructure that the Lebanese government does not have at this point," he said.

He said the Hezbollah, with most of its members coming from the less privileged sector of society, were more understanding of the plight of migrant workers.

From an ideological and social standpoint, they can identify with the migrant workers in their country, he said.

"Hezbollah ministers in the Lebanese government are the most pro-migrant worker," Bello said.

But he recognized that there were diplomatic issues involved in working with the Hezbollah.

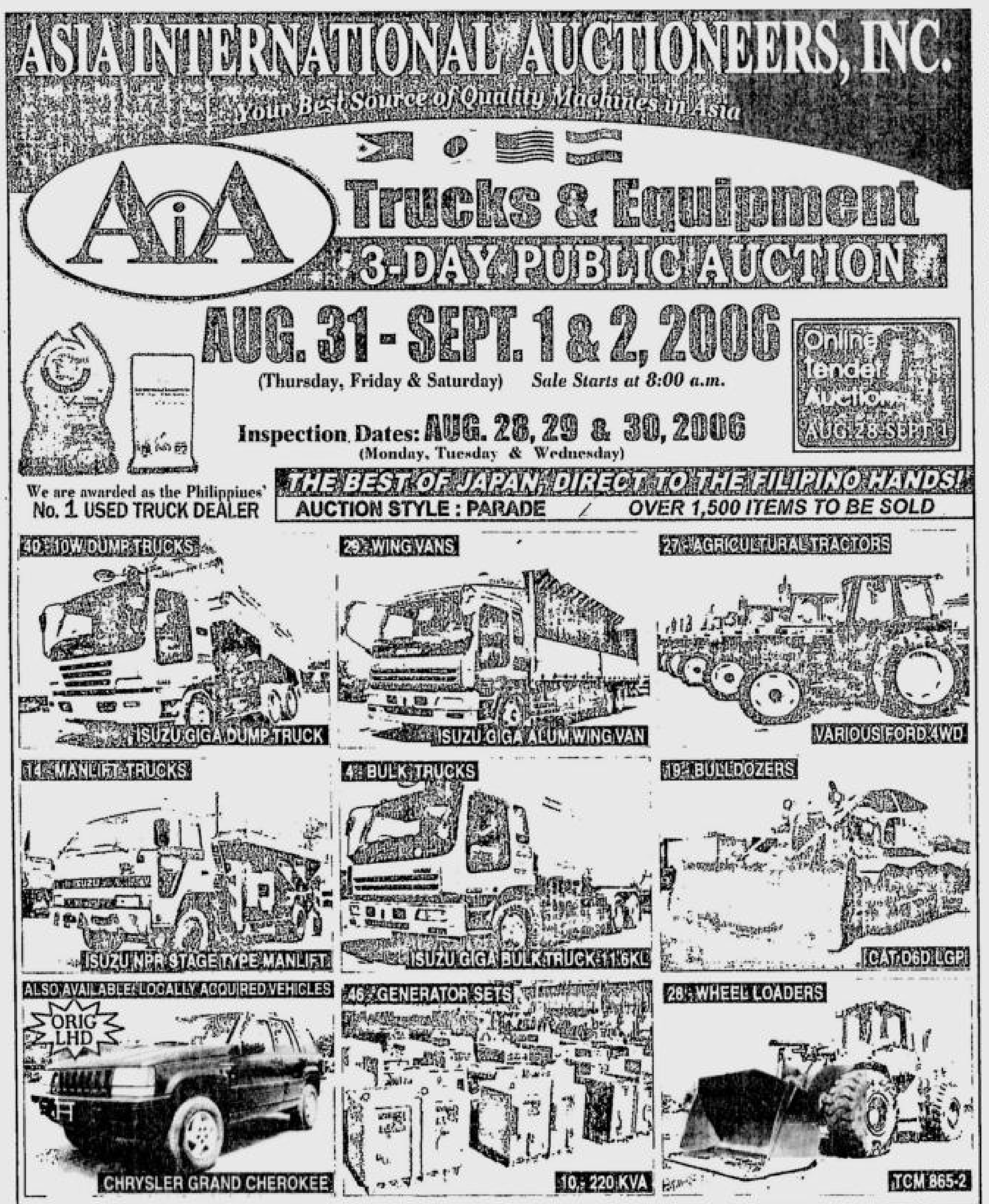
"Perhaps, they [the government] can coordinate with the Hezbollah through informal channels," Bello said.

The mission members said they witnessed cases of abuse of Filipino workers by Lebanese employers, including preventing them from talking to other people, denying them a day of rest and even keeping them from attending Mass on Sundays.

There were many cases of Filipino workers being promised wages of $200 a month before leaving the Philippines, only to be given $150 when they get there.

Many Filipino workers even have their passports taken from them so they would not run away, they said.

Hataman said he would file a House resolution on the plight of OFWs in Lebanon next week.



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Cooperate, party-list groups urged

By Norman Bordadora

AN ANTICOMMUNIST GROUP YESTERDAY assailed party-list groups for refusing to cooperate with authorities in resolving the killings that have plagued their ranks, saying this only proved that the Left wanted to perpetuate the "culture of violence" it had allegedly started.

Pastor Alcover, chair of the Alliance for Nationalism and Democracy (Anad), said that if militant party-list leaders were sincere in getting to the bottom of the killings, they would trust police with the evidence they were holding instead of taking their grievances to the media.

The Philippine National Police has formed Task Force Usig to look into the killings. But police have lamented the lack of cooperation of witnesses as well as militant groups in the investigations. *See related story on Page A1.*

"Are we really sure that party-list leaders like [Bayan Muna Rep.] Satur Ocampo want to put an end to these killings? The refusal of militant party-list groups to cooperate says a lot about their sincerity—or lack of it—in resolving the assassinations of their former comrades," Alcover said, adding:

"Satur Ocampo and his ilk are all talk and no action when it comes to helping resolve these depraved acts of violence."

Alcover, said to be a former official of the Communist Party of the Philippines, said that only recently, leftist party-list leaders snubbed a dialogue organized by the PNP to address the political killings.

The dialogue was attended by members of the clergy, business community, media, cause-oriented groups and Alcover's Anad.

New rules issued on holiday pay

By Jerome Aning

THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMployment yesterday issued new rules on the holiday pay for Aug. 21, a special non-working holiday commemorating the martyrdom of the late Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr.

Replying to sectors complaining that the country already had too many holidays, DOLE Secretary Arturo Brion said the Aug. 21 holiday had been observed twice already, as mandated by Republic Act No. 9256.

Brion added that the law was signed by President Macapagal-Arroyo during the 18th anniversary of the first Edsa People Power Revolution on Feb. 25, 2004.

Following DOLE regulations, an employee who reports for work on Monday will earn 30 percent more of his daily pay. If he works overtime, he will be paid 30 percent more of his hourly rate.

If Monday is his day off and he reports for work, he will get 50 percent more of his daily rate. If he works overtime, he will be paid 30 percent more of his hourly pay.

P3-B PAYMENT TO PIATCO

MIAA asks court for 'a little more time'

THE MANILA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT Authority has asked the Pasay court for "a little more time" to comply with the court's order for it to pay more than P3 billion to the builder of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport's Terminal 3.

"Payment obviously cannot be done overnight. Aside from existing government rules on disbursement of funds, we also have banking rules and regulations to abide with considering the substantial amount involved," MIAA general manager Alfonso Cusi said in a statement.

In a ruling handed down last Aug. 9, Judge Jesus Mupas of the Pasay City Regional Trial Court Branch 117 ordered the MIAA and the Land Bank of the Philippines to pay the Philippine International Air Terminals Co. (Piatco), the Naia 3 contractor, P3.3 billion so a "writ of possession" to the terminal could be issued in its favor.

In December 2005, the court gave the government the go-ahead to take over the terminal after the Supreme Court voided the contract with Piatco. But the high court ruled that the government must pay Piatco an initial amount of P3 billion as "just compensation" before taking over the mothballed facility.

Last Thursday, Mupas ordered Cusi and Gilda Pico, the Landbank of the Philippines president, to show cause within two days from receipt of the order why they should not be cited for contempt for "failure and refusal" to comply with the Aug. 9 order.

Cusi yesterday denied having failed to comply with the order. He said that the MIAA board of directors had met on Aug. 14 and approved the payment.

But he said that as a "custodian of public funds," he has to exercise prudence in the allocation of billions of public money.

"All we need is a little more time to comply with the order," he said, adding that he has already requested the Office of the Solicitor General to prepare a reply to the court. *Jocelyn R. Uy*

SAD HOMECOMING JESS YUSON

Vice President Noli de Castro, second from right, and Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Esteban Conejos, left, condole with the parents of Mary Jean Pangilinan and Michelle Tomogan who died in Lebanon. Pangilinan fell to her death on July 26 while reportedly cleaning the windows of her employers' apartment. Tomogan died while trying to escape from her employer on July 28. The bodies arrived yesterday at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

24 senior policemen promoted

MALACAÑANG HAS approved the promotion of two dozen law enforcers to the rank of senior superintendent, the Philippine National Police said yesterday.

The officers took their oath yesterday even as the PNP announced the recruitment of 4,500 more law enforcers.

The newly promoted officials are currently assigned in national support units and regional offices.

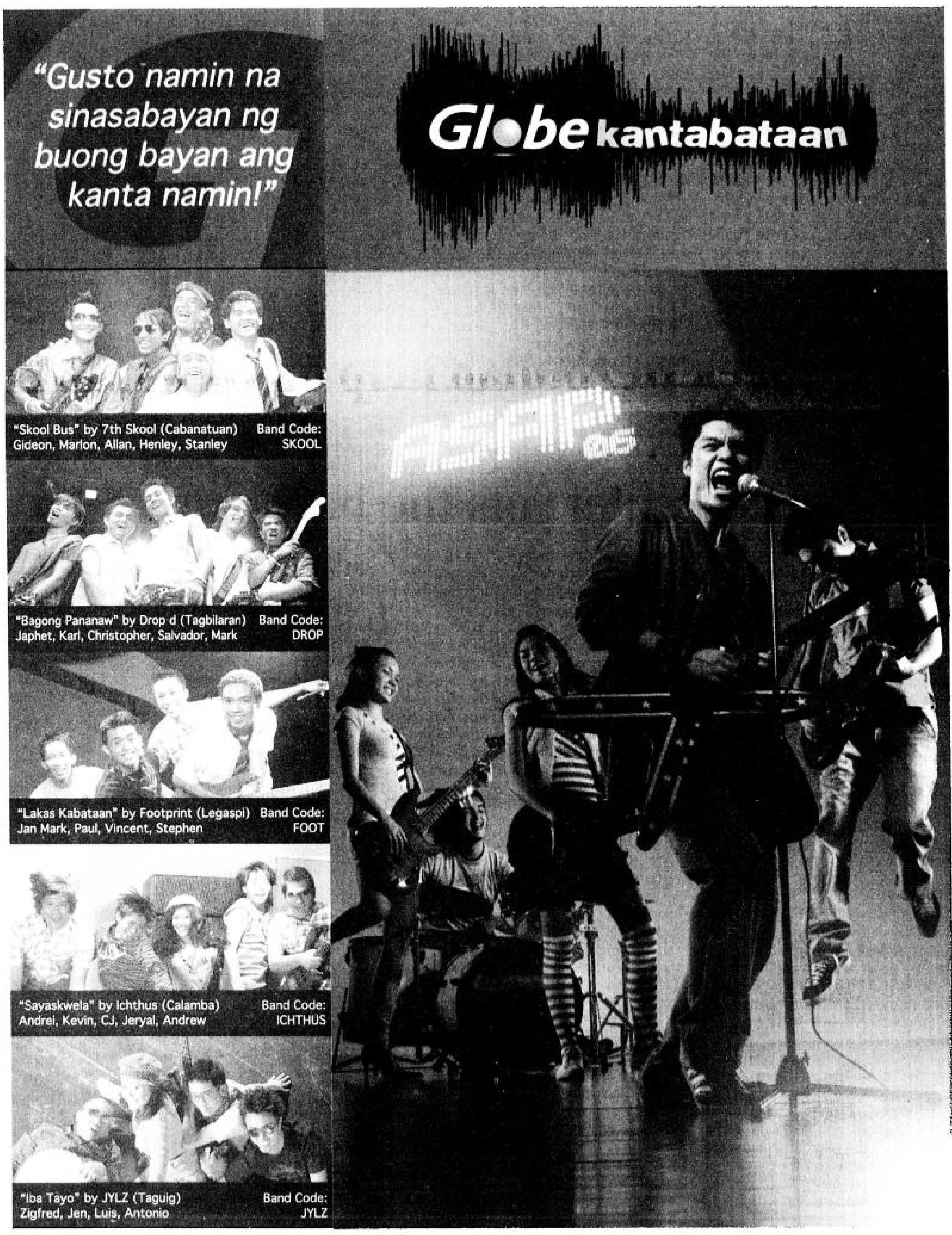
PNP chief Director General Oscar Calderon said the 4,500 recruits, as well as the 3,000 men hired last year, will be deployed to field units being strengthened in preparation for the police's anti-insurgency drive.

Many of the recruits will go to Central Luzon, Southern Luzon, and the Bicol Region, territories considered communist hotbeds, and to the Special Action Force, the elite unit which will begin advising local policemen on combat operations against rebels soon.

Of this number, some 15 percent or 675 slots are earmarked for female officers, police said.

The recruits are also expected to fill up some 2,600 positions that would be vacated as a result of retirement and separation this year.

Successful applicants, who will get about P12,000 a month, will take their oath in November, and then undergo a six-month course on public safety before they are sent to the field, police said. *Luige A. del Puerto*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"Lakas Kabataan" by Footprint (Legaspi) Jan Mark, Paul, Vincent, Stephen Band Code: FOOT
"Sayaskwela" by Ichthus (Calamba) Andrei, Kevin, CJ, Jeryal, Andrew Band Code: ICHTHUS
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Week 3 (August 21-25)	August 29	September 5	2 winners Sony Ericsson Cellphones, 3 winners of 5,000 G-Cash
Grand Draw (August 7-25)	August 29	September 5	5 winners of 10,000 G-Cash each, Grand Prize - 50,000 G-Cash Grand Prize - 50,000 G-Cash

Kaya get to know the band and their songs!

Full songs, band profiles and Kantabataan updates available via the official G-Blog site www.kantabataan.com.ph

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GMA lawyer on poll raps: Hearsay

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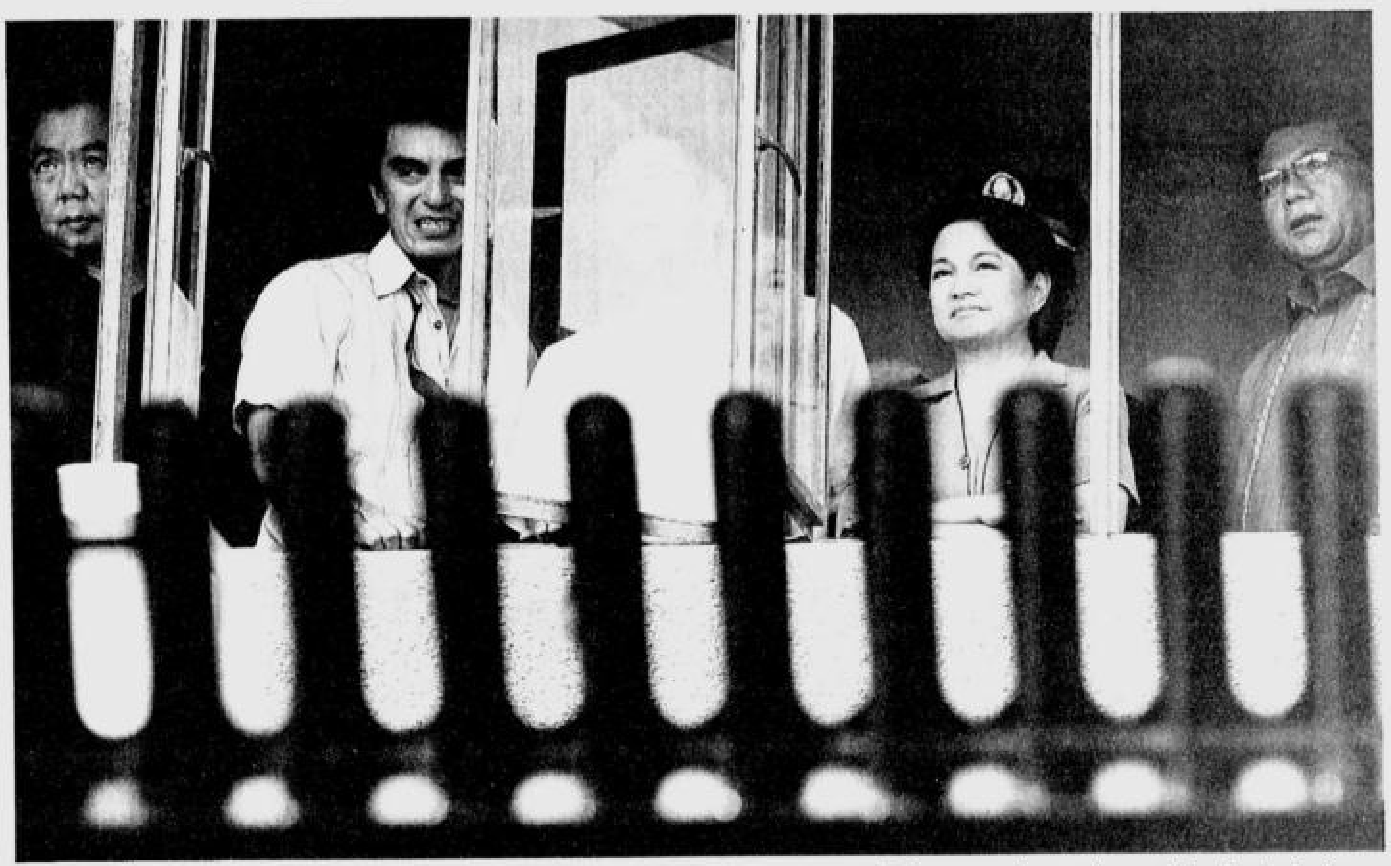

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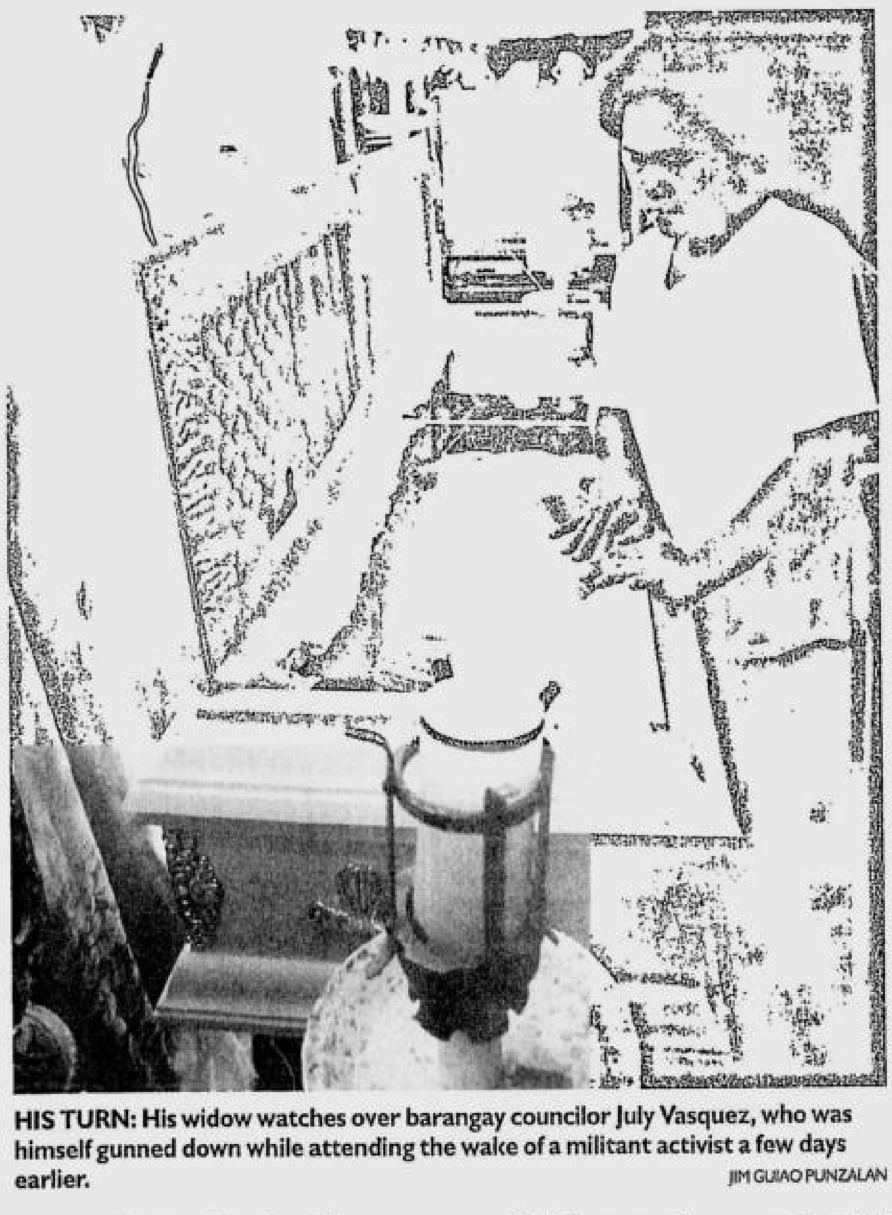

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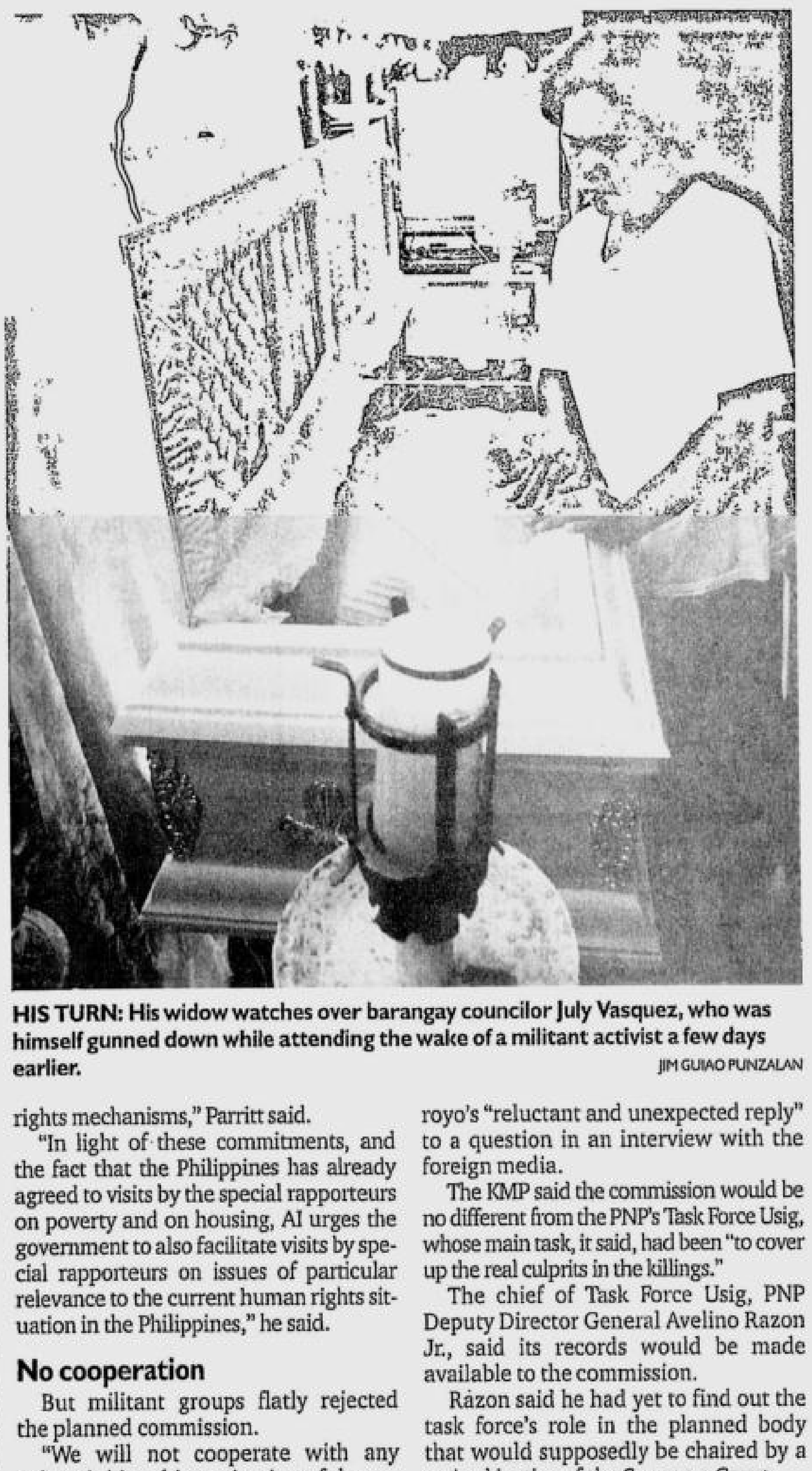

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The chief of Task Force Usig, PNP Deputy Director General Avelino Razon Jr., said its records would be made available to the commission.

Razon said he had yet to find out the task force's role in the planned body that would supposedly be chaired by a retired justice of the Supreme Court.

But Pamalakaya said: "We were not born yesterday not to understand the sinister agenda behind Malacañang's formation of it own commission on political killings." *With a report from Norman Bordadora*

RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME

Big sea cleanup ordered

From page A1

the public to donate relief goods and oil cleanup implements—such as absorbent materials like foam, rice straw and even human hair.

Hair has proven effective in absorbing oil and Greenpeace volunteers have been urged to check if they could get discarded hair from beauty salons and barber shops, said Greenpeace's Athena Ballesteros.

Coast Guard officials estimate that anywhere from 200,000 to 300,000 liters of bunker fuel had spilled out of the 2 million liters carried by the tanker when it sunk off Guimaras due to bad weather.

Officials have said the accident would be the worst oil spill in the country's history should the remaining 1.8 million liters of fuel still in the tanker seep out.

Von Hernandez, Greenpeace Campaign Director for Southeast Asia, said the group would contact experts in Europe to ask for advice regarding the salvage of the tanker.

Hernandez described the tanker as a "ticking time bomb" and said its salvage was crucial to prevent the remaining fuel from spilling out into the sea.

Area of imminent danger

The Regional Disaster Coordinating Council in Western Visayas has decided to declare certain areas under a state of imminent danger, according to Presidential Adviser for Western Visayas Rafael Coscolluela.

This would allow local government units to use their calamity fund for damage control measures, he said.

Coast Guard commandant Vice Adm. Arthur Gosingan said the full resources of the Coast Guard would be deployed to contain the spill.

Five more ships with equipment to combat oil spills and a helicopter are arriving within the week or early next week.

At least two tugboats contracted by the owner of the tanker that sank 24 miles off this island on Friday are also deployed in the area. The ships are also expected to carry relief goods for affected residents.

Foreign experts

Two British pollution experts have also arrived to help assess the damage.

"As of now there are two representatives of the International Tanker Oil Pollution Federation there," said Virginia Ruivivar, spokesperson for Petron Corp. which chartered the tanker.

"They are assessing what needs to be done. After that we would know what kind of assistance we would be asking from the other countries," she added.

The spill has already affected more than 200 km of coastline, covering beaches and mangroves in black sludge and threatening the livelihoods of hundreds of poor fishermen living in villages along the shore.

The tanker is lying in up to 3,000 feet of water off Guimaras.

Malacañang said concerned government agencies were working 24 hours a day "to prevent further damage to our environment and to the communities affected."

Prevent future disasters

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the PCG and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources were also conducting an investigation into the incident to prevent a repeat of similar "ecological disasters."

The investigation is also aimed at finding out which party is liable for the spill and what reparations are necessary to rehabilitate damaged marine resources, Bunye said.

Greenpeace, along with scientists and marine experts, have agreed to help assess the impact and the damage caused by the spill, said PCG spokesperson Lt. Cmdr. Joseph Coyme.

Recovery of Solar I has proved difficult because it has gone down to a depth of 1,800 to 3,000 feet and local salvage teams do not have the capability to reach such depths, Coyme said, adding this prompted the PCG to seek international help.

Other needed materials

Other materials needed in the cleanup are tents, ocean and tent booms, gloves, face masks, shovels, sacks, plastic bags, water-resistant canvas, generators, sprayers, soap and detergents.

Hernandez said that Petron, owner of the spilled fuel, and Sunshine Maritime Development Corp., owner of the tanker, should pay for the cleanup and compensate residents whose livelihoods were affected.

"It's not just an environmental disaster, it's an economic disaster because fishermen depend on the integrity of those marine resources for their livelihood," Hernandez said.

He pointed out that when the government gives out national calamity funds for the affected areas, it is the taxpayers who in effect are paying for the effects of the oil spill caused by private entities.

Hernandez also said the effects of the spilled oil might linger even after it had been cleaned up.

Affected barangays

According to him, oil contains persistent compounds, like hydrocarbons, that remain in the environment a long time and could kill marine life.

He said the hydrocarbons could form into globules which could sink under water and smother corals, kill fish larvae and destroy the feeding and nursing grounds of fish.

So far, 20 coastal barangays in the Nueva Valencia, Sibunag and San Lorenzo towns in Guimaras have been affected by the oil spill.

Coyme denied reports that the oil spill had already affected Negros Occidental.

The PCG has also been using dispersants, a liquid chemical that breaks down the composition of the oil and causes it to dissolve or sink, to prevent the fuel from reaching more coastal areas.

Coyme said the PCG's priority was to contain the oil and stop it from reaching the shore. He said fuel was more difficult to clean up when it reached land.

Top priority

"We are moving more ships and personnel in this area. The President considers the spill as a very serious concern," Gosingan told the INQUIRER.

Gosingan said their priority was to contain the spill at sea because it would be harder if the slick reached the shoreline, as what was happening in at least 20 coastal villages of the island-province.

Capt. Luis Tuason Jr., Coast Guard commander in Western Visayas, said the Coast Guard's Marine Environmental Protection Units had also been brought in to help contain the spill.

Tuason said the bunker fuel that had leaked from the sunken vessel could have reached from 300,000 to 350,000 liters coming from the first two of 10 cargo tanks of the vessel.

The 998-gross-ton MT Solar I was carrying 13,000 barrels or 2 million liters of bunker fuel when it sank. The tanker was contracted by Petron to deliver the fuel to the Western Mindanao Power Corp. in Zamboanga del Sur.

Senators Richard Gordon, Ralph Recto and Aquilino Pimentel Jr. called on Petron, the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, and non-government groups to help the government cope with the disaster.

Gordon asked the SBMA to make available its oil spill mitigation equipment to remove the spill in Guimaras.

Recto said Petron should clean up the mess. "The amount needed for the cleanup is just a drop in its barrel of profits," he said. *With reports from Christine O. Avendaño, Juliet Labog-Javellana, Jerome Aning and Edson C. Tandoc Jr. and AFP*

MANGROVES become an oil field as workers clean up the shallow waters armed only with buckets. AP

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Slain cameraman found heaven on earth

From page A1

nents and seas, to spend the winter months in the Philippines.

According to Pascua, the 2006 Asian Waterbird Census recorded "more than 11,000 birds and more than 80 species in Candaba in only three hours of counting."

Runez, a Caloocan-based cameraman, was there to witness the event.

"He was in awe," Pascua recalled. "The time of our visit was the peak of migration. There were 11,000 birds in Candaba. He was surprised, but also frustrated because we didn't bring a zoom lens for close-up shots of the birds."

Soon after that initial visit, Runez became a "committed" member of Kaakbay, an NGO that aims to protect the bird sanctuary.

"He was brought in by his good friend and fellow cameraman Rene de los Santos when we decided to make a documentary on the birds of Candaba," Pascua explained.

The 15-minute documentary titled "Wings in the Water: The Birds in Candaba Swamp" is among the 16 finalists in the second Moonrise Festival of environmental films, ongoing at the Gateway Cineplex in Cubao, Quezon City, this month.

Jolly person

Balbido described Runez as a jolly person who always cracked jokes. He was soft-spoken and unassuming, according to fellow videographer Rocky Sison.

But when it came to work, he was a no-nonsense person.

"He wasted no time and put all his knowledge, skills and even resources into our project," Pascua said. "At first, we were embarrassed because our organization lacked funds and we didn't have the money to pay a professional cameraman like him."

To everyone's surprise, Runez volunteered his services as videographer and film editor.

"He used his own video camcorder, a Canon XL1, when we shot for four days in Candaba. He had his personal computer upgraded so he could edit the documentary at home," Balbido said.

Those crucial days of editing the documentary solidified the group.

"We edited the docu for five days nonstop and without sleep. It was during that time that we got to know Ralph better," Balbido said.

Nominated docu

"Photo finish *kami*; we finished editing and submitted the docu only three hours before the Moonrise festival's deadline on June 30," Pascua said.

The group's hard work paid off when the docu was nominated in the Best Cinematography and Special Citation for Rivers and Lakes categories in the festival.

Runez was credited as videographer, along with De los Santos and Sison.

Although the docu didn't bring home any award, the group felt like winners "because we were all first-time filmmakers, and we pulled it off," Pascua said.

On July 26, during Kaakbay's "critiquing night," the group decided to make improvements on the docu.

"The group gave the assignment of implementing the changes to Ralph," Balbido said. "He became our group's official technical person."

Tragedy

"He edited out the shaky footage; he put in bird calls and natural bird sounds," Pascua said.

In fact, Runez was "working on the documentary all through the night until the dawn of July 28—the day he was murdered," he recalled.

"He took a break from editing to withdraw P35,000 from a Metrobank branch in Lagro, Quezon City. He was going to lend the money to a friend," Balbido said.

On his way home to Caloocan, Runez was accosted by robbers who shot him twice.

"He was declared dead on arrival at the Tala Hospital," Pascua said. "Ralph was only 35 years old."

Tribute

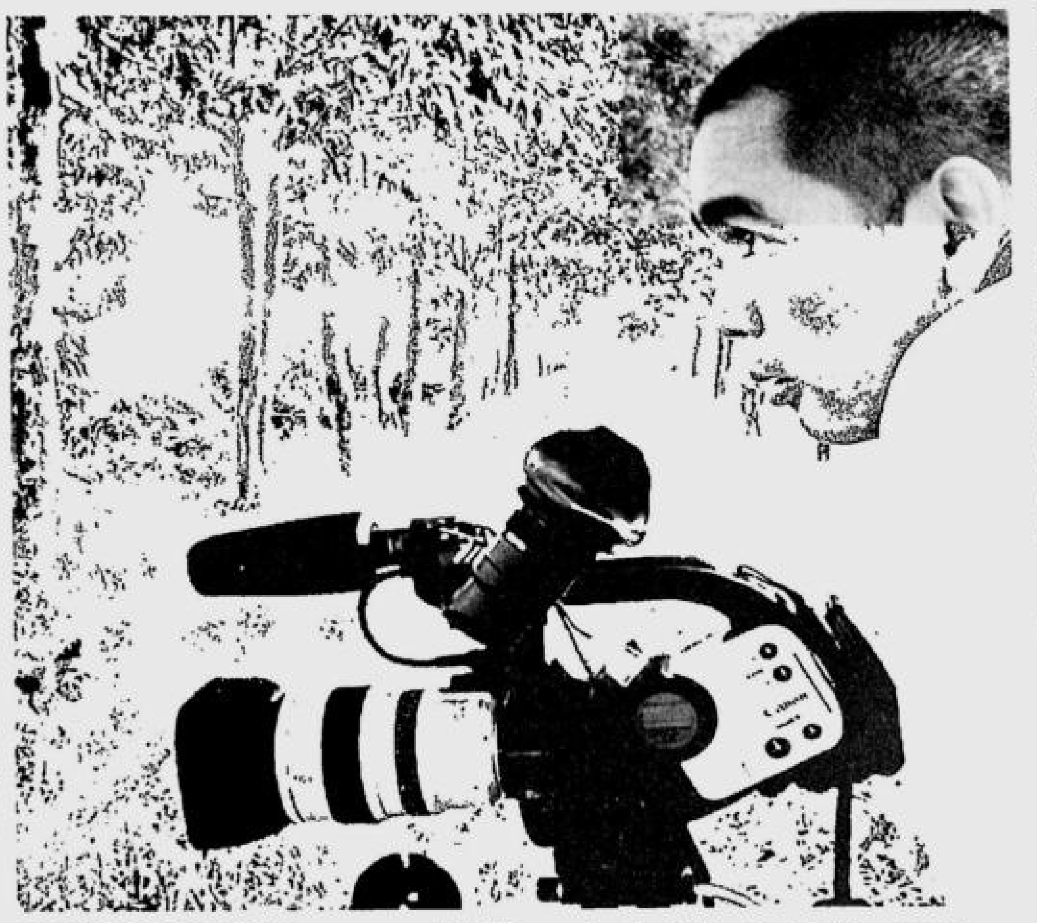
Although suspects in Runez's murder have been arrested, his friends and colleagues could only hope "that justice would be served in Ralph's case because a policeman had been implicated."

"At his wake, his 4-year-old son Rafael looked as if he was oblivious that his father was gone," Balbido said.

Kaakbay, however, is determined to pay homage to Runez.

The NGO is holding a special screening of "Wings in the Water" at 7 p.m. today at the Gateway Cineplex.

"He will forever be a part of Kaakbay. Rocky reedited the ending to include a tribute to Ralph," Balbido said.



BIRDWATCHING: RPN-9 cameraman Ralph Runez shooting in the Candaba Swamp and Wildlife Preserve.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Court halts new nurses' oath-taking

From page A1

before the Court of Appeals handed down its TRO.

The court set a hearing of the case for Sept. 14.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez expressed opposition to the CA resolution, saying the passing students were not at fault for getting the leaked questions supposedly at review centers before the exams.

"They reviewed there. They heard the possible questions. They hit a jackpot there," Gonzalez said in an interview.

"What's bad in cheating is if you copied, but if you reviewed and heard the reviewer say these are possible questions, that's not your fault," Gonzalez said, adding that the blame should be placed on the review centers.

'Cease and desist'

In a resolution penned by Associate Justice Vicente S. E. Veloso, the appellate court said it granted the TRO "to preserve the rights of the petitioners pending disposing of the subject petition and so as not to render any judgment hereon moot and academic."

The petitioners were Rene M. Tadle, Earl Francis R. Sumile and Michael Angelo S. Brant, heads of the UST College of Nursing Faculty Association, the League of Concerned Nurses and the Binuklod na Samahan ng Mga Student Nurses.

"Thus, effective for a period of 60 days from receipt of this resolution, the respondents and all those acting on their behalf are directed to cease and desist from enforcing the assailed board resolution 31 dated July 17, 2006, and from proceeding with the oath-taking allegedly scheduled on Aug. 22, 2006, of those who reportedly passed the June 11 and 12 examinations for nurse licensure," the court said.

10 days to answer

The Board of Nursing's resolution 31, in effect, invalidated portions of the nursing exams that had been spoiled by the leakage and approved a scheme for using grades in other portions to compute the grades in the invalidated portions.

The effect of the resolution is to stop the oath-taking while the court decides the central issue of the complaint, which is the recomputation of the grades.

The court directed the PRC and the Board of Nursing 10 days to file their comments.

In their petition, Tadle, Sumile and Brant warned that unless handled well, the issue of the alleged leakage in the exams would cause "irreparable damage" to the country's "public health and safety" as well as the prospects of nurses of working abroad.

Not fair

They took the PRC and the BON to task for simply "recomputing" the scores after taking out the tests on "medical/ surgical nursing" and "neuro-psychiatric nursing," which were allegedly tainted by leakage.

But they warned nurses could not do without having a good grasp of medical and surgical nursing and neuro-psychiatric nursing, the latter field being "an indispensable discipline for all those who desire to enter the profession."

Gonzalez said it was not fair to use the issue of the integrity of the exams to "punish the students who passed the exams."

"That's unfair. If the majority who took did not cheat, why are you punishing them? They worked hard for it. They were merely dragged into this by those who cheated," he said.

Gordon smells 'cover-up'

Gordon said Rosero "should resign."

He said Rosero's memo directing the holding of regional oath-takings "is highly irregular, considering that the Senate investigation as well as the NBI investigation, which Rosero herself requested, is still ongoing."

"Why are they acting with such indecent, inexplicable and unjustifiable haste? This could only mean a cover-up."

Gordon added: "Senate investigations are ongoing and it has managed to ferret out new and valuable information on the culprits as well as the extent of the leakage. Why can't the PRC wait until both the Senate inquiry and the NBI investigation of the matter are concluded and the exact extent of this debacle is uncovered?"

Biazon defends PRC

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon defended the PRC's authority to decide whether to administer the oaths to those who passed the tests.

"It is well within the power of the PRC, together with the Board of Nursing, to make that decision,'" Biazon, chair of the investigating civil service committee that opened an inquiry into the alleged leakage, said in an interview.

The PRC decision, he said, was apparently patterned after a Supreme Court ruling nullifying the results of one topic after a leakage scandal in the bar examinations a few years ago.

Biazon also voiced fears that the petition seeking to stop the oath-taking could lead to a protracted court battle, prolonging the agony and further setting back steps by the examinees to get a license and find a job.

Another test demanded

The 17-member board of the Philippine Nurses Association, an organization of around 54,000 nurses, yesterday met and agreed to demand the nullification of the exam results.

The group wants successful examinees to take the test again in December.

"The PNA stand is for the nullification of the entire licensure exams," new PNA president Marilyn Yap told the INQUIRER.

"Although we fully sympathize with the examinees and their parents, we believe this is the only way to erase all doubts about the integrity of the exams."

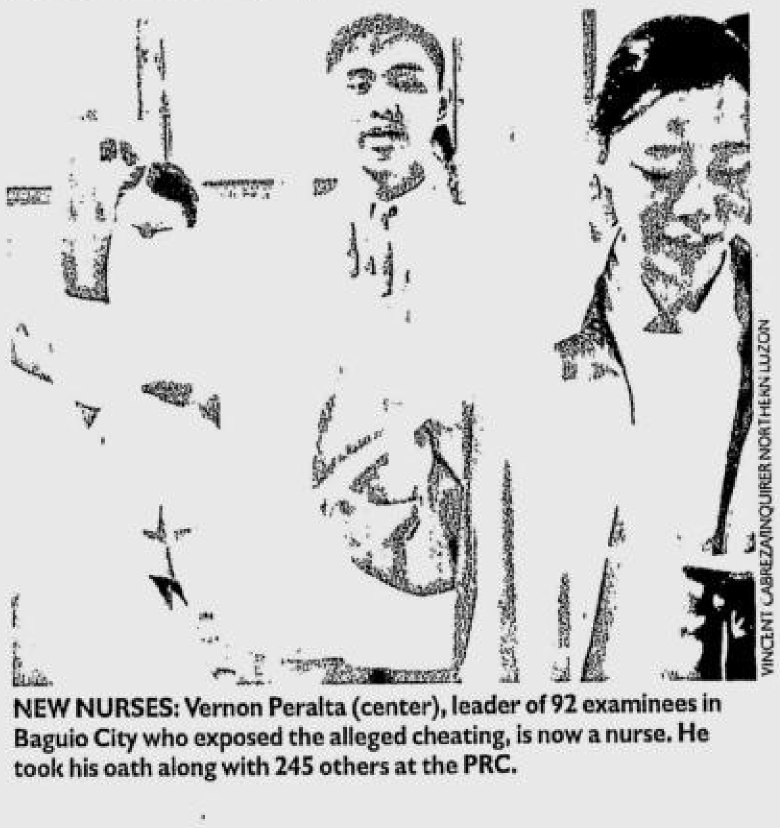
Malacañang hands off

Yap, who assumed the top PNA post following the resignation of George Cordero, said the PNA "fully recognized the sentiments of examinees and their parents," especially their expenses and the stress they had to go through in connection with the licensure test.

Still, she said, nullifying the test results and having examinees take the test again was the best way to remove the "asterisk" or "blot" people—especially employers—might put on the records of the June 2006 passers.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the Palace saw no need to intervene in the scandal at this time.

"At this point, our assessment is that the situation is under control and that the Professional Regulation Commission has the situation under control," Bunye said. *With reports from Christian V. Esguerra and Christine O. Avendaño*



VINCENT CABREZA/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

NEW NURSES: Vernon Peralta (center), leader of 92 examinees in Baguio City who exposed the alleged cheating, is now a nurse. He took his oath along with 245 others at the PRC.

US federal judge halts wiretapping

From page A1

lance Program, which has been used to monitor millions of US citizens.

"It was never the intent of the (constitutional) framers to give the president such unfettered control, particularly when his actions blatantly disregard the parameters clearly enumerated in the Bill of Rights," Taylor said.

The ruling was immediately appealed by the NSA and the injunction was temporarily stayed ahead of an appeals court ruling.

Taylor said the warrantless wiretapping under the "Terrorist Surveillance Program" violated free speech rights, protections against unreasonable searches and the constitutional check on the power of the presidency.

"There are no hereditary kings in America and no powers not created by the Constitution," Taylor said in a 44-page ruling.

The NSA program has been widely criticized by civil rights activists and raised concern among lawmakers, including some in President George W. Bush's own Republican Party, who say the president may have overstepped his powers by authorizing it.

The government had asked for the lawsuit brought by the American Civil Liberties Union to be thrown out, arguing that any court action on the case would jeopardize secrets in the war on terrorism.

The Aclu said it expected the Bush administration to seek an immediate stay on the federal court order pending an appeal before the 6th US Circuit Court of Appeals.

"We think the program is unconstitutional and we are hopeful and confident that any district or appellate court who looks at it seriously will agree with that," said Aclu attorney Jameel Jaffer.

Tracking terror

Bush authorized the NSA program after the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States, and it became public last year.

The program allows the government to eavesdrop on the international phone calls and e-mails of US citizens without obtaining a warrant, if those wiretaps are made to track suspected al-Qaida operatives.

But Taylor ruled that by skirting the process of obtaining warrants, the Bush administration had violated the terms of a 1978 surveillance law, the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, or Fisa.

Fisa requires warrants for individual eavesdropping on suspects inside the United States.

Taylor said the government's arguments in support of the program appeared to imply that Bush's role as commander in chief of the US Armed Forces gave him "the inherent power to violate not only the laws of the Congress but the First and Fourth Amendments of the Constitution itself."

Civil rights activists welcomed the decision.

Victory for Americans

"The ruling of the judge is not only a victory for the American Muslim community but a victory for the entire American population," said Dawud Walid, executive director of the Council on American-Islamic Relations for Michigan, which joined the Aclu as a plaintiff in the lawsuit.

"America is built on the principles of civil liberty and equal protection for all American citizens, regardless of ethnicity and race," he said.

The Aclu lawsuit was filed on behalf of scholars, attorneys, journalists and non-profit groups that regularly communicate with people in the Middle East and believe that their phone calls and e-mails had been intercepted by the US government.

A similar suit brought by the Center for Constitutional Rights is pending in federal court in New York. The judge in that case is set to hear arguments on Sept. 5. *Reuters, AFP*

North Korea preparing to test nuke—US media

From page A1

to force the international community, and Washington in particular, into making concessions to the poor and isolated state.

But a diplomatic official in Seoul familiar with the communist state's nuclear program, was skeptical of the reports and US officials said they had no new evidence of such a plan.

Also, Russia has no information that would confirm a US news report that North Korea might be preparing an underground nuclear bomb test, the foreign ministry said yesterday, criticizing what it called attempts to "inflame" the situation.

"At the moment we have no information that would confirm such reports," a spokesman at Russia's foreign ministry said. "Such information appears regularly in the foreign media but so far no reports of this kind have been confirmed," the spokesman said.

"We believe that given the need to resolve the situation on the Korean peninsula, inflaming things is counterproductive," he said.

ABC News on Thursday quoted a senior military official as saying a US intelligence agency had observed suspicious vehicle movement at a suspected North Korean test site.

A senior State Department official, who was also not identified, told the network: "It is the view of the intelligence community that a test is a real possibility."

July's missile tests were widely seen as less a display of military muscle than an often-used tactic by the North Korean government to grab international attention but whose key aim—to win direct talks with the United States—failed.

"Many of the experts ... have been concerned about the possible options on the part of North Korea, including nuclear tests or other forms of military provocation," said Kim Sung-han, head of North America studies at South Korea's Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security.

Pyongyang accuses Washington of trying to topple its government through a crackdown on North Korean international finances and which it wants ended before it returns to international talks to end its nuclear weapons program.

The United States refuses to end the crackdown, which analysts say is causing Pyongyang's leadership real difficulties, or to hold direct talks with North Korea outside the six-country negotiations.

The talks among the two Koreas, China, Japan, Russia and the United States have been stalled since November.

Earlier this month, the influential International Crisis Group warned that Pyongyang might escalate the confrontation by firing more missiles or even conducting a nuclear test.

North Korea has been working on nuclear weapons for years.

It probably has the technology to build a bomb and enough fissile material for at least six to eight nuclear weapons, proliferation experts have said.

But they say no one knows for sure whether it has actually built a nuclear weapon. North Korea declared itself a nuclear weapons power in February 2005, without testing.

ABC said the suspected test site was an underground facility called Pungyee-yok in northeast North Korea. The intelligence was brought to the attention of the White House last week, the ABC report said.

Although it aspires to be a nuclear weapons power, North Korea has trouble feeding its own people and experts said flooding last month could push it into famine.

Last year, activity at suspected North Korean test sites led some analysts to believe the secretive state was preparing to test a nuclear device, but nothing happened. *Reuters, AFP*

Sunken 'sulfuric' ship refloated in Batangas

But 1,270 tons of corrosive contents gone

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD HAS ONE less sunken vessel to worry about with the reported recovery of a barge that contained 1,270 metric tons of sulfuric acid when it sank off a pier in Batangas last June.

The Billy Star barge was refloated on Wednesday after being underwater for nearly two months. But the PCG discovered that its highly corrosive contents were gone when the vessel was brought out of the water.

The PCG earlier said that the barge needed to be removed from the water immediately given the sulfuric acid's "highly reactive" and "highly corrosive" nature. Spokesperson Lt. Commander Joseph Coyme had warned that sulfuric acid could react with water and trigger an explosion.

But Coyme said in an interview yesterday that the PCG believed the sulfuric acid seeped out of the barge while it was underwater.

He said the sulfuric acid could have escaped from a small opening in the barge so that when the acid came into contact with the sea water, the feared negative effects were neutralized.

Coyme earlier said that bad weather hampered the recovery of the barge.

The barge is expected to be towed to Barangay San Juan in Mabini, Batangas, for scrapping.

The Billy Star barge sank on June 24 while it was moored at the Keppel shipyard in Bauan, Batangas. It is owned and operated by Grand Asian Shipping Lines.

The barge was brought to the shipyard after running aground between Romblon and Sibuyan Island earlier in the month.

43 OFWs finish 'Tulay IT' course in Taiwan

FORTY-THREE Filipino workers in Taiwan recently completed a course in computer fundamentals being offered for free to OFWs through a program organized by the Manila Economic and Cultural Office (Meco), the Philippine representative in Taipei.

The project, called "Tulay IT," is a partnership between the labor department and the Overseas Workers' Welfare Administration (Owwa) and Microsoft Phil.

It is aimed at providing IT access and training to OFWs so they and their families can communicate via the Internet, and thereby mitigate the social impact of being away from home.

According to Marvi Ador, welfare officer of the Meco labor office in Taichung, 60 percent of OFWs there have joined the IT classes which are held on Sundays.

Tulay IT is part of Microsoft's Unlimited Potential program, a global initiative that aims to provide technology skills for underserved individuals.

Through Tulay, OFWs and their families receive free training in basic computer applications such as Word, Excel (for simple accounting and budgeting), power point presentation and e-mail/web functions, including video-conferencing and Yahoo Messenger (YM) chat.

The training is seen as enhancing the OFWs' performance at work. And after their current work contracts expire, their being computer literate would be an added advantage in subsequent job applications, Meco said.

Since its launch in Taichung in July 2005, the program has produced 167 graduates. Most of the trainees were either employed as factory workers or caregivers. The average age of the participants was 32.

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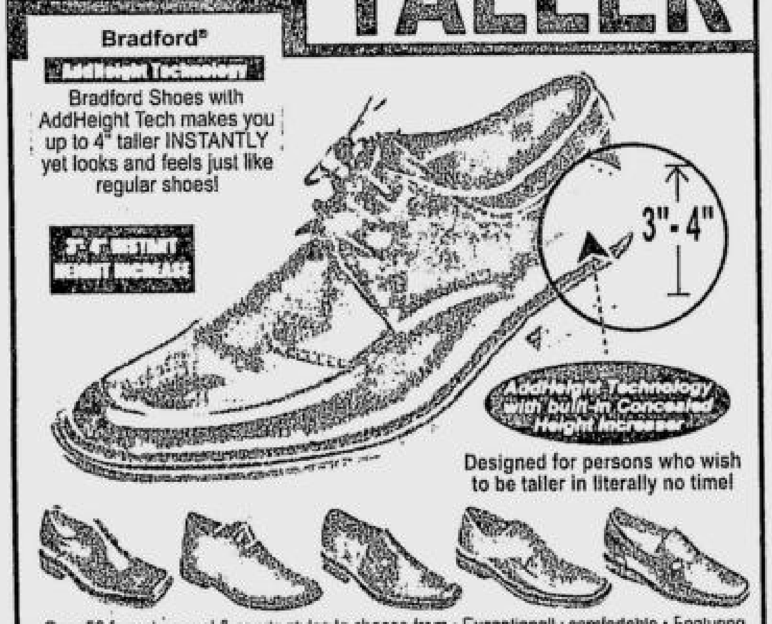
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NOTICE TO MAYNILAD WATER CUSTOMERS AND THE PUBLIC

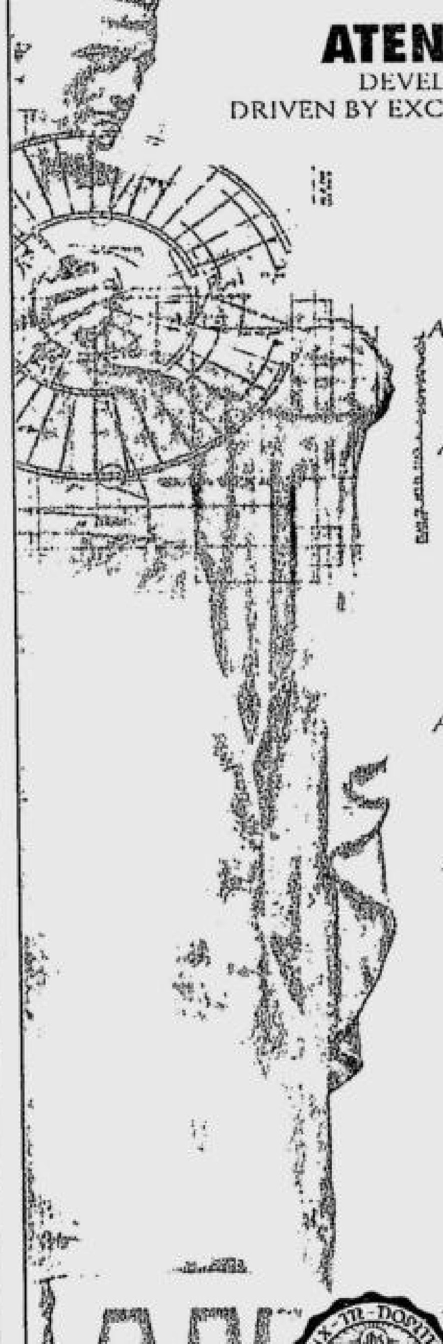
The Metropolitan Waterworks & Sewerage System Regulatory Office, through Resolution No. 06-006-CA dated July 10, 2006, as approved and confirmed by the MWSS Board Resolution No. 2006-163 dated July 27, 2006, has granted Maynilad Water a Foreign Currency Differential Adjustment (FCDA) of 1.02 % of the Basic Charge or P 0.22 per cubic meter tariff adjustment for the 3rd Quarter 2006.

However, as the FCDA for the 3rd Quarter is equal to that which had been granted for the 2nd Quarter 2006, there will be no change or adjustment in the tariff rate.

FCDA is a tariff mechanism granted to utility companies with foreign currency denominated obligations to allow them to compensate for fluctuations in the foreign exchange rates. The FCDA is adjusted upwards if the peso depreciates, and downwards if the peso appreciates.

In the case of Maynilad Water, the company pays foreign exchange denominated Concession Fees to the MWSS as well as loans taken for service improvement projects. The FCDA mechanism is based on the principle of "no over or no under recovery".

Maynilad's concession area covers the cities of Manila (all but portions of San Andres & Sta Ana), Quezon (west of San Juan River, West Avenue, EDSA, Congressional, Mindanao Ave: the northern part starting from the Districts of the Holy Spirit & Batasan Hills), Makati (west of South Super Hi-way), Caloocan, Pasay, Parañaque, Las Piñas, Muntinlupa and Valenzuela, and the towns of Navotas and Malabon all in Metro Manila; Cavite City, and the towns of Bacoor, Imus, Kawit, Noveleta and Rosario, all in Cavite Province.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SCHEDULE OF ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS
August 26 & September 9, 2006
Saturday, 8:00 a. m.
For additional information, please write or call:
THE REGISTRAR
ATENEO PROFESSIONAL SCHOOLS BUILDING
#20 Rockwell Drive, Rockwell Center, Makati City
Tels.: 8997691 local 2214 to 2217 / 7292000 / 8995548 direct line
E-mail: emansibang@aps.ateneo.edu
Office hours: 12nn - 8pm
AMONG EQUALS
ATENEO GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
Ateneo Professional Schools Building
Rockwell Drive, Rockwell Center
City of Makati, Philippines
Tel: (632) 899-7691 to 96; (632) 729-2001 to 2003
Fax: (632) 899-5548
Web site: http://www.gsb.ateneo.edu

Complete list of new doctors here; t

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3 ABALOS, GLADYS ELIZARDE
4 ABAMONGA, MELISSA SUZANNE YPARRAGUIRRE
5 ABANILLA, CARMELA ROSANNE BRIONES
6 ABAO, ANNE MARIE BOLIVAR
7 ABDULMAJID, MOHAMMAD KHASIM IBRAHIM
8 ABEL, ANA LORAINE DE LEON
9 ABELLERA, NIÑA MARLA LUCERO
10 ABELLO, JANRUS YUIPCO
11 ABENOJAR, JOHN MICHAEL GERARD AMUAN
12 ABES, FRANCO LOUIE LOS BAÑOS
13 ABILLADA, JONATHAN REY KINTANAR
14 ABILO, RHEA MAE LOCSIN
15 ABING, ESTELA MARIS LLANDA
16 ABRENICA, NORBERTO MONLAWEN
17 ABRIAM, SHARONDA GACOSTA
18 ABROGUEÑA, JOHN PAUL ABEJO
19 ABTAHI, FATIMA KHADIJA MANGULAMAS
20 ABUCAY, ANGELICA GABRIEL
21 ABUELA, JANET DALIPE
22 ACADEMIA, FIDES JOAN MAGSAYO
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25 ACIERTO, LUZVIMINDA ASUNCION
26 ACOSTA, JOHN RODEL ARTETA
27 ACUIN, MARION AVILA
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29 ADAOAG, ERIC KEK
30 ADARNA, LEILANI GICALE
31 ADIONG, AREEFAH ALONTO
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39 AGDAMAG, GRETCHEN GARCIA
40 AGNES, JAZEL ANNE PINTO
41 AGNI, RUEL TAGUFA
42 AGREDA, LEAH MAMON
43 AGUILAN, NICROAST VALEÑA
44 AGUINALDO, JHONAS BALLADA
45 AGULTO, MARIVIC CRUZ
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48 ALAGENIO, KCINNEL SUHAY
49 ALAMO, SHERWIN GREGORIO
50 ALARAS, ADRIAN PAREDES
51 ALARCON, RANDY CARLO CAMPILLO
52 ALAVA, ZCEDRICK BIGORNIA
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54 ALBAYDA, JEMIMA FELICITY LANGUIDO
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56 ALCARAZ, JOHN DENNIS BALBOA
57 ALEA, CRISTITO BEREDO
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101 ARCE, CORNELIUS IBE
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345 CHAN, RICHARD CHUNG
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353 CHU, CATHERINE ACODESIN
354 CHUA, BERNADINE CO
355 CHUA, CAROLYN JEAN ONG
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366 CLARAVALL, KRISTEN ANN CASTAÑEDA
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369 CO, NATALIE GO
370 CO, NIKKI JANE LIM
371 CO, PATRICK LEONARD GO
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373 COLLANTE, MA THERESA MORENO
374 COLLANTES, NORINA RACHEL PERALTA
375 COLOMA, CHARO ASUNCION
376 COLOYAN, RAFAEL TEODOSIO
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380 CORSINO, MICHAEL VINCENT OLIFERNES
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383 CORTEZ, CHRISTIAN ANDADOR
384 COSTA, JENNY ROSE NAVARRO
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386 CRUZ, CARISSA MARIE ABAD
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388 CRUZ, CATHERINE JOANNE VALCONCHA
389 CRUZ, CHERRIE ROSE YOUNG
390 CRUZ, JEROME REYES
391 CRUZ, JOSIL REYES
392 CRUZ, KRISTINE PAMINTUAN
393 CRUZ, LESLEY ANNE NAPIAL
394 CRUZ, MA SALUD CRUZ
395 CRUZ, MARY DONNA MANANGHAYA
396 CRUZ, PATRICK JOHN JACINTO
397 CRUZ, REGINALD DEMPSEY MAYANGITAN
398 CRUZ, WESLEY WENDELL BANIQUED
399 CUE, PAMELA CHRISTINE CHUA
400 CURATO, MICHELLE ANNE CAYCO
401 CUTIYOG, PRISTINE MAE MENDOZA
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403 CUYOS, LARA CORILLA
404 CUÑA, ALAIN CHIN
405 DACANAY, JO ANN MONICA FLORENDO
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407 DADUFALZA, JEAN PIERRE PONCE
408 DAEL, TRISHA ANNE MACAPAGAL
409 DAET, ELEAZAR PRESBITERO
410 DAG-O, CHERYL NABOYE
411 DAGUNO, MARIA PERCIPI MONTOJO
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413 DALIVA, KHRISTINE SUAN
414 DAMMANG, BENNAJEEB SAKILI
415 DAR, MELANIE VICTORIA DE GUZMAN
416 DARROCA, APRIL LEAL
417 DATILES, ROBERTO EMILIO AGUINALDO
418 DATO, VIRGIL EMILE SALAMAT
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426 DE GUZMAN, DONATO TORRES
427 DE GUZMAN, JAE-JEGVINNE REAMBILLO
428 DE GUZMAN, MARVIN RADEN TORRES
429 DE GUZMAN, RINA VIOLA
430 DE JESUS, BRIAN JOSEPH DE GUZMAN
431 DE JESUS, MARK JAMES FONBUENA
432 DE LA CRUZ, EDGAR ROSENDO HILARIO
433 DE LA CRUZ, JULIUS JOSEPH LAGTAPON
434 DE LA CRUZ, SHERYL DIRILO
435 DE LEON, DENNIS RULLODA
436 DE LEON, GENE PATRICK OLIVAR
437 DE LEON, JOSEPH ATIENZA
438 DE LEON, LARISSA JANE MANGENTE
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440 DE LUNA, HAZEL LAMUG
441 DE MANUEL, KAREN LU
442 DE TAZA, AMOR BAYOG
443 DE VERA, CONSUELO AMPARO GODOY
444 DE VERA, DON LUNA
445 DE VILLA, KIM BYRON SARMIENTO
446 DE VILLA, RICHELLE BELMONTE
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448 DECENA, ROMMEL ABALOS
449 DEGAYO, ANASTACIO MANUEL JUN-JUN SULLEZA
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452 DELA CRUZ, ALEJANDRO GAMALINDA
453 DELA CRUZ, ERNEST ABEGAIL CALINGASAN
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469 DEMETRIA, DAPHNIE JOYCE RESQUITES
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474 DIGAL, COCO LAO
475 DILANGALEN, OMOHAIRE TAPERLA
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494 DUFF, KRISKA FRIAS
495 DULALIA, ANGELA MARIA LUNA
496 DULAY-VILLAMORA, TAHNIA GRACE PANGANDAMAN
497 DULFO, MYLYNN LORIN JUSAY
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2	ANGELES UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION
3	ATENEO DE ZAMBOANGA
4	BICOL UNIVERSITY-LEGAZPI
5	CAGAYAN STATE UNIVERSITY-TUGUEGARAO
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7	CEBU INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE
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14	GULLAS COLLEGE OF MEDICINE
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36	UNIVERSITY OF THE EAST RAMON MAGSAYSAY MEM MEDICAL CTR
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38	UNIVERSITY OF THE VISAYAS-MANDAUE CITY
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701 IMPERIAL, MARK RAY TAMSE
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713 JAMORABON, HAROLD VALDEZ
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715 JAPSON, ROMMEL DOLUNTAP

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Total No. of Exam.	Total No. of Passed	Percentage Passed
33	7	21.00%
42	16	38.00%
22	13	59.00%
2	0	0.00%
16	5	31.00%
63	38	60.00%
76	67	88.00%
77	37	48.00%
183	91	50.00%
13	2	15.00%
206	135	66.00%
56	12	21.00%
1	0	0.00%
88	17	19.00%
77	26	34.00%
2	0	0.00%
29	4	14.00%
103	30	29.00%
2	1	50.00%
1	0	0.00%
26	18	69.00%
121	51	42.00%
1	0	0.00%
101	87	86.00%
4	0	0.00%
1	0	0.00%
63	19	30.00%
80	60	75.00%
66	45	68.00%
5	1	20.00%
41	10	24.00%
16	4	25.00%
84	15	18.00%
49	4	8.00%
322	271	84.00%
280	153	55.00%
134	130	97.00%
5	2	40.00%
65	15	23.00%
86	68	79.00%
54	37	69.00%

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910 MATURINGAN, RONA BERNARDO
911 MAUYAG, JAYEDAH EVONNE PADATE
912 MAYOL, WARDELL NGUJO
913 MEDENILLA, HONEY BETH CORRENCHO
914 MEDENILLA, MICHELLE JOY PIZARRO
915 MEJIA, OMAR JOHN BALGOS
916 MEJOR, FAITH VICTORY AQUINO
917 MELENDRES, FERNANDO JR ANGELES
918 MELENDRES, KRISTINE ANNE TISON
919 MELENDRES, ROMMEL WHIGAN
920 MEMIJE, CLEOFE HIZON
921 MEMPIN, MELISSA FRANCISCO
922 MENDOZA, APRIL TIMBREZA
923 MENDOZA, EILEEN CARAAN
924 MENDOZA, JERTTIE RHEA JOSEF
925 MENDOZA, LIZA GERON
926 MENDOZA, MICHAEL CONRAD SARMIENTO
927 MENDOZA, MILPA FERNANDEZ
928 MENDOZA, PARALUMAN FRANCISCO
929 MENDOZA, PATRICIA EDEN VILLAFANIA
930 MENDOZA, SHAULA DE GUIA
931 MENESES, MARY ROSE ADELINE RICAFORT
932 MEOLLO, MARICAR URBANES
933 MERCADAL, GERARD RYAN TORRENTE
934 MERCADO, JAIME SIMON ENRIQUE SORIANO
935 MERILLES, PIERRE ANGELO MANLANGIT
936 MERIN, EDELWEISE GUEVARRA
937 MESIAS, MARIANETTE NOELLE BATAO
938 MICU, CHARMAINE VICTORIA
939 MILLARES, MEDARDO JOSEPH ESGUERRA
940 MILO, ABIGAIL MAYO
941 MIRANDA, KATHLEEN BONDOC
942 MIRANDA, MA OLIVIA BERNARDO
943 MIRANDA, RODANTE CRUZ
944 MIRAVALLES, MAY GRACE ADVINCULA
945 MIÑA, BENNYSON LORETE
946 MIÑAS, VINAGAY RIVERA
947 MODOMO, LAYLA MARIE TANJUAKIO
948 MOHAMMED, MARK PONCE
949 MOJICA, WINLOVE PANGILINAN
950 MOJICA-MOLDEZ, SHARON WINNIE BATHAN
951 MOKAMAD, HALIMA OMAR
952 MOLANO, ROMEO JR GARCIA
953 MOMONGAN, MARIA ISABEL CUÑADA
954 MONICIT, KATHLEEN DARYL ARRIESGADO
955 MONTEJO, ABE FLORDELIS
956 MONTES, NOEL SABATE
957 MONTESCLAROS, MARY MAMETTE ACEVEDO
958 MONTOYA, JOSE ENRIQUE YUMUL
959 MORALES, MARIA CRISTINA DIAMZON
960 MORENO, JANET HOLGADO
961 MORTEL, RYAN OLIVER ARELLANO
962 MURAKAMI, CHRISTINE ADEFUIN
963 MUSNGI, ROMANA MARIE IGNACIO
964 MUTIA, KARLOU DINGLASA
965 MUÑEZ, VANESSA SALAS
966 NACIONALES, ROWENA MANAOIS
967 NADAL, JONALD VILLANUEVA
968 NADORRA, JASMIN CASTRO
969 NAGRAMPA, JENNIFER JILL VINUYA
970 NAGUIT, CHERRIELYNE ENRIQUEZ
971 NAKPIL, PHILIP SIMONDAC
972 NALANGA, ANNIE JANE ARANETA
973 NANO, AIMEE LOU MANALO
974 NANTES, KRISTYNELLE PANGILINAN
975 NARISMA, MARIA AURORA NAIDAS
976 NARVAEZ, ELWYN VINCENT VILLAVICENCIO
977 NATINO, STAMEN BARRERA
978 NATIVIDAD, MARIA CRISTINA MAGNO
979 NATIVIDAD, MARIA THERESA ANG
980 NATIVIDAD, NADJAH SALAGUBANG
981 NAVARRA, MARLON ESPINA
982 NAVARRO, ABEGAIL GUZMAN
983 NAVARRO, ARVIN MARCIAL CABALTERA
984 NAVARRO, FLORIAN MELIZA ENRIQUEZ
985 NAVARRO, VANESSA DANGANAN
986 NAVATA, GIOVANNI GRAGASIN
987 NEIS, GISELLE SANCHEZ
988 NG TSAI, SHERLYN CHAN
989 NGALOB, QUEENIE GUINTO
990 NGO, JUNE UY
991 NICDAO, EUGENE RAYMUND LAYOS
992 NIDO, MARIA THEA MULINGBAYAN
993 NIETO, MINERVA CORPUZ
994 NIEVES, CRISTINA SAGAD
995 NISCE, IVY ROSE CANLAS
996 NOBLEZADA, DEBBIE ONG
997 NOGAS, ELLA JOY LAMANILAO
998 NOVILLA, ERWYN CARPELA
999 NOVILLOS, RONALD DISO
1000 NOVO, LADY MAIRES MENDEZ
1001 NOZAWA, MA CARMELITA LAO
1002 NUESTRO, GRACE BOOL
1003 NUYDA, RICHMOND CORTEZ
1004 NUÑEZ, BERNADETTE SANTOS
1005 OBESO, ROLLY GERARD BRILLANTE
1006 OCAMPO, LOUIE RETANA
1007 OCONER, NIÑO GIL LAZARTE
1008 OFO-OB, SHAMAE EMENGGA
1009 OJEDA, SHARMA VIBETTE TRAJANO
1010 OKOL, MARIA AVELINA III MALLONGA
1011 OLALDE, JOSEFINA PAMELA ONTIVEROS
1012 OLALIA, MARGARET ANNE CATAJAN
1013 OLASO, AEDAN SIMON AMPONG
1014 OLIB, JACQUELYN BLAS
1015 OLOAN, EVELYN BACOCO
1016 OMBAO, JOELSON RIVERA
1017 OMOLIDA, JOHN DAVE ROBINO
1018 ONG, AILEEN GASCON
1019 ONG, ARCHIE LIM
1020 ONG, CELESTE CAMACHO
1021 ONG, FRANCIS BENEDICT MANUEL
1022 ONG KIAN KOC, JEAN BERNADETTE UY
1023 ONGKINGCO, COLLEEN MANGUIOB
1024 ONGOCO, MA KATHRYN SANTOS
1025 ONGSINGCO, JOSE GABRIEL ALUNAN
1026 ONIA, ANGELICA FLORES
1027 OPINALDO, PAUL VINCENT AYTONA
1028 ORBETA, ANA MELISSA CABASCAL
1029 ORDOÑEZ, GERALDINE REYES
1030 ORDOÑEZ, KRISTINE MAY TABILE
1031 ORETA, EDWIN HALILI
1032 ORGANO, ROBERTO JR GACAO
1033 ORLANES, LYNDON REMUCHA
1034 ORO, RUFINO II UMIPIG
1035 OROCAY, EMILY ANN APILADO
1036 ORTIZ, PORTIA CHARISMA RUTH AGDEPPA
1037 OSIGAN, SRILANSKY ARCE
1038 OSIS, ROWELIZA ARGUELLES
1039 OTADOY, MA FERDINE DE LA REA
1040 PABALAN, DELLA MAE RAMOS
1041 PABELLANO, MA LUISA GWENN FLORIDO
1042 PACHECO, PETER JR PALAGANAS
1043 PACIENCIA, SATURNINO JR BUCOG
1044 PADILLA, HAROLD PARCASIO
1045 PADILLA, MARIA CRISTINA OLIVARES
1046 PAEZ, JANE MICHELLE TAN
1047 PAGAUITAN, PICHY ANN IQUIN
1048 PAGENTE, JENY ROSE BUCTUAN
1049 PAGSISIHAN, JEFFERSON RIVERA
1050 PAGUE, BENJAMIN VELASCO
1051 PAHINAG, MARIE CRIS PASCUA
1052 PAILANO, GLADYS VALENCIA
1053 PAJAR, FILIPINAS SAPIANDANTE
1054 PAJE, CRIS MARIA RAISSA GUTIERREZ
1055 PALA, ANIZA BARANDIA
1056 PALABYAB, ANNA GERONIMO
1057 PALAMINE, MARIA TERESITA LUGTU
1058 PALANGINAN, MARK KRYSTER ICATLO
1059 PALLANAN, CARMELA YAMBOT
1060 PALMA, DONALD CERONA
1061 PALMA, NENACIA RANALI NIRENA RODRIGUEZ
1062 PALSIS, ERWIN VILLANUEVA
1063 PAMATIAN, ARVIN ENDONILA
1064 PAMPLONA, AMIE LYN DELA CRUZ
1065 PANDY, MARY ANNE BONGAT
1066 PANEDA, INGRID MEJIA
1067 PANERIO, KAREEN LOU CLARIN
1068 PANGANIBAN, JENNIFER ALBERTO
1069 PANIS, ALEXANDER DE JESUS
1070 PANLILIO, JOSEPH ALDABA
1071 PANSACOLA, SEPTEMIUS ALMARIO
1072 PANTALEON, ANTHONY FELICIANO
1073 PANTAS, JIM BRYAN PALMA
1074 PAPERA, ARAH MARGARITA DELA MERCED
1075 PAQUIZ, MARY JOY JIMENEZ
1076 PARREÑAS, HERNANDO JR VALENZONA
1077 PARREÑO, MARTIN RUIZ
1078 PARRILLA, BARBRA THERESE VILLARMINO
1079 PASCASIO, ALFRED ROBINSON ZABALA
1080 PASCUAL, JANICE CONECHADO
1081 PASCUAL, RENATO JR CABANELA
1082 PATACSIL, LORELENE CALUZA
1083 PATALINJUG, REDEN ARO
1084 PATAWARAN, MA RICA PINTACASI
1085 PATOC, MENCHIE AGUILAR
1086 PAUIG, APOLINARIO JR BANGUG
1087 PAULINO, HUBERT DEL ROSARIO
1088 PAVINO, ROGELIO JR NOTARTE
1089 PAVON, RAYMOND MANITO RESURRECION
1090 PAWHAY, CHRISTIAN MICHAEL HONG
1091 PAÑARES, DODGE ALVIN SABIO
1092 PECAOCO, MARY LALAINE BAYLEN
1093 PECSON, CHRISTINE NEBRE
1094 PEDIAPCO, HANS ERICH PE
1095 PEKAS, FERDINAND BEN BENSION
1096 PELEGRINO, RAMCIS SURIA
1097 PERA, SHERIE HAZEL CASTILLO
1098 PERAJA, RHEINHARD BORROMEO
1099 PERALTA, SHEELAH MARIE NACNAC
1100 PERALTA-BASCON, AUBREY UDAUNDO
1101 PEREZ, CONCEPCION CATALAN
1102 PEREZ, FELENETA GOPEZ
1103 PEREZ, HEIDI ROSE CARAET
1104 PEREZ, JANEEN RUTH LAGULAO
1105 PEREZ, MARIA VIRGINIA SOLANO
1106 PEREZ, ROSS ANNE SILVA
1107 PEREZ, ROXAN AGBAY
1108 PEREZ, SIEGFRIED ROBERT SAMONTE
1109 PERILLO, AIRES OCAMPO
1110 PERONILLA, PAULINE ANNE REYES
1111 PEÑA, ANGELA PRADA
1112 PEÑALOSA, CHRISTINE AGUSTIN
1113 PEÑANUEVA, DONNA JOY BADULIS
1114 PIIT, FLOS CARMELI ILOGON
1115 PILAPIL, GLORIEWIL ESPINOSA
1116 PILE, MARICHEL DELA CRUZ
1117 PIÑERA, MARLYNNE CALIPJO
1118 PO, NOREEN THEA MORAGA
1119 PONCE, JAN MARC DELA CRUZ
1120 POSCABLO, JOSE WENDEL CRUZ
1121 PROTACIO, JOSEF CHRISTIAN UMALI
1122 PUA, JOHN HUBERT CABASAG
1123 PUEYO, JENETH MALCONTENTO
1124 PUGUON, ELYZEL BUMIDANG
1125 PUIG, CRESANIE GALINO
1126 PUNZALAN, ADORA TOLENTINO
1127 PUNZALAN, AUBREY MARASIGAN
1128 PURACAN, NEIL LLOYD SURALTA
1129 PUZON, ABIGAIL DEL ALCAZAR
1130 QUE, CHRISTIAN JOHN DELA CRUZ
1131 QUEZADA, GLINARD LOYOLA
1132 QUIAMBAO, GAY GISSELLE TOLENTINO
1133 QUIMIO, LENNIE DIMAANO
1134 QUIMSON, LARA ARABOS
1135 QUINAGAN, AISEL MAUREEN GULAY
1136 QUINTAL, ANA-MAE HALILI
1137 QUIROZ, BERNICE VILLANUEVA
1138 QUITON, DINAH FAITH TOYHACAO
1139 QUIÑONES, PIA KAREENA VILLANUEVA
1140 RABENA, FERDINAND MADAMBA
1141 RABOT, JAMIE TABAMO
1142 RAGASA, CARMENCITA ILEEN CABALLES
1143 RAM, JENNIELYN SALANGA
1144 RAMIL, JULIET GUERRERO
1145 RAMIREZ, MAE NILOOBAN
1146 RAMIREZ, MELISSA ANNE CAPISTRANO
1147 RAMIREZ, MEYNARDO JR ALUB
1148 RAMIREZ, NESSER QUEJA
1149 RAMIREZ, RICARDO JR LEGASPI
1150 RAMOS, CHRISTIAN NAPIZA
1151 RAMOS, CYNTHIA TIMOTEO
1152 RAMOS, HANS JEREMY RIVERA
1153 RAMOS, MA CHRISTINE ANNE TORIBIO
1154 RAMOS, MARK ANTHONY ACABAL
1155 RAMOS, PHILOMELA ORACION
1156 RAMOS, VESPER FE MARIE LLANEZA
1157 RATUNIL, MILAN MILLAN
1158 RAVAGO, CHRISTINE JOY ROBLES
1159 RAZO, LLOYD FYL OLARTE
1160 RAZON, ELVIE VICTONETTE BLANCO
1161 REALIZA, MARVINI REBOTON
1162 REBUSTILLO, KATES LAUREANO
1163 REGALA, MARK VINCENT DEL FIERRO
1164 REGODON, CHERRY ADVINCULA
1165 RELATOR, ORVELIE SOCORRO JR BENGAN
1166 REPALDA, ANNA MELISSA CACCAM
1167 REQUIERO, RIA BABY MARCELO
1168 RESPICIO, PAUL ANTHONY RAMOS
1169 RESURRECCION, I AM PANLILIO
1170 REYES, ANTONIO III SALMEO
1171 REYES, ANTONIO JR SANTIAGO
1172 REYES, CARMINA FRANCE CRISOLOGO
1173 REYES, CATHERINE DIANNE BALLECER
1174 REYES, EDMUNDO BAUTISTA
1175 REYES, FLORANTE JR LOYOLA
1176 REYES, JULIUS CEAZAR HERRERA
1177 REYES, MARGIE CAMACHO
1178 REYES, MARIA OSMINA LAINEZ
1179 REYES, MARY GRACE NARVAEZ
1180 REYES, PAULINE TARUN
1181 REYES, ROSEMARIE VARGAS
1182 REYES, RUSSEL PERENA
1183 REYES, VINCENT ANDREW VENTURA
1184 REYES-AMURAO, GWENDOLYN YAMBAO
1185 RIGODON, VLADIMIR GERARD MENDOZA
1186 RIVERA, ANGELICA ALFONSO
1187 ROA, ROMEO DAX OSABEL
1188 ROBILLO, KRISTINE AINA VIOLAN
1189 ROCES, ANNA KARINA PAULA GAMBOA
1190 ROCHA, BETHEL JOFERBEN HACHAC
1191 ROCILLO, NORLIZA HAYAG
1192 RODRIGUEZ, VALERIE JAN AQUINO
1193 ROJAS, JOHNNY KENNETH FRANCO
1194 ROJO, FREMELLE GONZALES
1195 ROMANILLOS, PEACHIE PACLAR
1196 ROMERO, DANIEL DENNIS GRANALI
1197 ROMERO, DON ARLIE SANCHEZ
1198 ROMERO, JORILYN MANIPOL
1199 ROMERO, WILANIE ESPINA
1200 ROMO, JENIVIC YAO
1201 ROQUE, JASON ESPIRITU
1202 ROQUE, RODOLFO JR PEREZ
1203 ROSALES, CHRISTIAN DOMINIC MAGTRAYO
1204 ROSALES, HAZEL CHRISTINE CORPUZ
1205 ROSALES, JOHN PAUL GERARD NAZARENO
1206 ROSALES, MADELAINE BANDONILLO
1207 ROXAS, MARICHELLE MARASIGAN
1208 ROXAS, PAMELA ERICKE TANI
1209 RUARO, ANNA CRISTINA DAVID
1210 RUBIO, JENNY RIVERO
1211 RUIZ, REGINA REBUSTES
1212 SABA, JOHN PAULO NATIVIDAD
1213 SABAL, LUIGI ANDREW FONTANOSA
1214 SACEDA, VENUS GUARIN
1215 SALAS, AYN AIMEE JALANDO-ON
1216 SALATAN-DASIG, MAY FLOR SURVIDA
1217 SALAZAR, KATHYRINE NOBLEJAS
1218 SALIH, RIZAL JR GONZALES
1219 SALINAS, RACHELLE MAE SENARILLOS
1220 SALOM, HJ ADELEEN FRANCES JIMENEZ
1221 SALOM, MICHELLE VANESSA LORICO
1222 SALTING, CARLITO JOSEPH MACADANGDANG
1223 SALTING, JAMES DAVID
1224 SALVACION, DON GOMEZ
1225 SALVADOR, GERALDINE ESTILLORE
1226 SALVADOR, JACKYLIN ARGUELLES
1227 SALVANI, MA FARRAH MAE PE
1228 SAMAR, WYNNS MANIBOG
1229 SAMBO, LEMUEL DE JESUS
1230 SAMONTE, MA CARLA MENDEZ
1231 SAMONTE, MARY CHARMEL MORALES
1232 SAMPELO, ANGELO IAN AUSTRIA
1233 SAMPUL, FELICITA LLEDO
1234 SAMSON, IRIS ALESSANDRA ANTONIO
1235 SAMSON, MICHAEL MAGALLANES
1236 SAMUELA, JOSEPHINE ALCASABAS
1237 SAN JUAN, MARK ANTHONY DONATO
1238 SANCHEZ, EVELYN DELA CRUZ
1239 SANDALO, MONACE ZEPHYR SERAYE
1240 SANDEL, KATHERINE DIAZ
1241 SANICAS, MELVIN JALANDO-ON
1242 SANICO, NEIL VINCENT JUSAY
1243 SANIEL, MICHAEL VINCENT CLAUDIO
1244 SANTIAGO, AL ENCISO
1245 SANTIAGO, ARMARIE CHRISTINE NAVAL
1246 SANTIAGO, JED CHRISTIAN GARVILLES
1247 SANTIAGO, PAUL NOEL MARTINEZ
1248 SANTIAGO, RUTH MARIE RAMOS
1249 SANTOS, AILEEN PINEDA
1250 SANTOS, ALBERT BELTRAN
1251 SANTOS, JOHN PAUL JAMANDRON
1252 SANTOS, JOLINA PAMELA CONSTANTINO
1253 SANTOS, MA TRINIDAD JULIEX NUÑEZ
1254 SANTOS, MARIA IRMA ARELLANO
1255 SANTOS, MARIA THERESA HALILI
1256 SANTOS, MARY ANN MATIAS
1257 SANTOS, MARY GRACE DARE
1258 SANTOS, MELISSA ANNE MERIS
1259 SANTOS, RAMON GERARDO BARRIOS
1260 SANTOS, REGIE SANTOS
1261 SANTOS, ROSELLE DE JOYA
1262 SANTOS, STUART GARCIA
1263 SAPAEN, CYNTHIA GRAAL DONGALEN
1264 SAQUIBAL, JOY NACION
1265 SARMIENTO, CHRISTINE ANNE RIVERA
1266 SARMIENTO, EDEN MUDLONG
1267 SARMIENTO, MARIA ANGELA ROZALDO
1268 SARUCAM, AL GLENN BANAWA
1269 SASON, GIZEL PAOLA PILI
1270 SASONDONCILLO, MIA MENGOLLO
1271 SATOR, MA JHOANNA ARAÑEZ
1272 SAYO, AILEEN LAZARO
1273 SEBASTIAN, ADRIAN ACEVEDO
1274 SEBASTIAN, GERARD VICTOR ARCEO
1275 SEE, ESTER HUANG
1276 SEGUNDO, HONEY GANAY
1277 SEPE, MA ALODIZA LABISORES
1278 SEPULVEDA, MAE ANNE SEACHON
1279 SERAFICA, JOHN PAUL BARDILLON
1280 SERAG, JOHANN SEBASTIAN JC III REYES
1281 SERAPIO, JOSE III MANGYARI
1282 SERASPE, ROCYL JOY SUMAYO
1283 SEROJE, MYLAH RADAZA
1284 SERRA, SHEILA JAMELO
1285 SERRANO-SINNUNG, ABIGAIL NEBREJA
1286 SESCON, MARLY RAFANAN
1287 SIA, JOHN PATRICK AGUILAR
1288 SIALONGO, ROSELYN ENDRENA
1289 SIAPNO, INGRID PULUMBARIT
1290 SILVA, AUDIE GONZALES
1291 SIMBUL, IRENE KALAW
1292 SINDA, WALTER KENNY III SY
1293 SIOSON, CARLO SABAS
1294 SISON, CHERRY VIRREY
1295 SISON, LEOPOLDO JR PATDU
1296 SISON, MARK ALGARA
1297 SISON, MICHELLE LIM
1298 SOLIS, MARIA LUISA PATRICIA CUSTODIO
1299 SOLOMON-CATAQUIZ, CECILE STO DOMINGO
1300 SOMINTAC, KRISTINE CAYABYAB
1301 SONGCO, RAZ JESUS RAVELO
1302 SONGCUYA, DONNA LEE ORCA
1303 SORIA, JOCEL GONZALES
1304 SORIANO, MARIA ANA JEANELLEE ONG
1305 SOSA, JENNIFER FELIZE MORATO
1306 STA MARIA, ANGEL III PURCEL
1307 SUACILLO, TREAH MAY DESLATE
1308 SUACO, TED JUSAY
1309 SUGAY, ISSER NIÑO
1310 SUMABAT, KRISTINE JOYCE NEPOMUCENO
1311 SUMANG, ABEGAIL TEODORICA JACO
1312 SUMAYLO, SHARON JORDAN
1313 SUMUGAT, ANTONETTE MONTERO
1314 SUÑAZ, MARK ANGELO LEDESMA
1315 SUÑAZ, MICHAEL ANGELO LEDESMA
1316 SUÑGA, OWEN GERONIMO
1317 SY, ALLEN ANDREW TANLIMCO
1318 SY, JOHNNY CHONG
1319 SYDIONGCO, JAN BRAGA
1320 TABON, MARINI SUÑER
1321 TACACA, GEMMA PATRICIA ETRATA
1322 TADENA, CHRISTOPHER URIAN
1323 TAGARDA, TERESA MORENO
1324 TAGUINOD, ERWIN ACORDA
1325 TAGUINOD, MARY ROSARY MATAMMU
1326 TAHIL, SHADRINA QUE
1327 TAI, EMI APPLE CUNANAN
1328 TALABUCON, CAROLINE GABRIEL
1329 TALASAN, EMY JOY SILERIO
1330 TALIP, LOLIFEL GOMEZ
1331 TAMAYO, MARYGRACE DELIRIO
1332 TAMBALO, GERALD OLAN
1333 TAMBANILLO, ALEMIL PEDREGOSA
1334 TAN, ANGELINA DE LUNA
1335 TAN, CAROLINE CU
1336 TAN, CHRISTIAN BUCAYAN
1337 TAN, CHRISTOPHER BRYAN DANAQUE
1338 TAN, CONSUELO CATIG
1339 TAN, IRISH MICHELLE SABANAL
1340 TAN, JEAN CAROLINE TIU
1341 TAN, JOHN ERIC NGO
1342 TAN, JON PAOLO JALAD
1343 TAN, KRISTINE MAE VELASCO
1344 TAN, LOUELLA MONTEVIRGEN
1345 TAN, MARY ANTONIETTE MAGLUYAN
1346 TAN, NATHANIEL CARL TY
1347 TAN, PATRICK YU
1348 TAN, REAGAN PUZON
1349 TAN, TENNILLE
1350 TAN-ALBARECE, MARIA MERITA BORJA
1351 TANCO, KIMBERSON COCHIEN
1352 TANEGA, KRISTINE HERNANDEZ
1353 TANGILAG, SHASTINE MACLIING
1354 TANTEO, MARIA CHRISTINE JOY BACILOÑA
1355 TAPAWAN, KAREN GONZALEZ
1356 TAPUYAO, SANDY LOU SANCHEZ
1357 TARCA-CRUZ, LIZA ALCALA
1358 TARUC, NORVIE BOOC
1359 TARUC, RAFAELANI LUCAS
1360 TAUB, DONNABELLE ROMERO
1361 TAUTJO, JANETTE NGO
1362 TAÑAQUIN, RICHARD KALUGDAN
1363 TECSON, HILDA DE CASTRO
1364 TEJADA, GERALD VILLANUEVA
1365 TEJADA, JOHN PATRICK LIM
1366 TEJERERO, PILIPINAS ONG
1367 TENCHAVEZ, MARILOU VELASQUEZ
1368 TEODORO, CATHERINE DIASANTA
1369 TEQUILLO, BIMBO HORTELANO
1370 THIAM-TUAZON, JANICE RONDOLO
1371 TIONGCO, ANA KATRINA SALVADOR
1372 TIPON, RYAN FELIX
1373 TIRADO, ANNA LYN CASPE
1374 TISTON, SHEILA CAPUNGCOL
1375 TIU, ANTHONY YU
1376 TIU TONG, DONN BANTOTO
1377 TOLENTINO, FERRY BRUNO
1378 TOLENTINO, NERIROSE POBLETE
1379 TOLOSA, CYRIL JOSEPH TAPIA
1380 TOMINES, CRISANTO MADRONIO
1381 TONGCO, CESAREO AMADEO II URBANO
1382 TONGO, EDGAR ALLAN DOMINGUEZ
1383 TORIO, KARLA GAE CANICULA
1384 TORRALBA, ANGELA ROSE YU
1385 TORRES, ALFONSO VINCENT GABRIEL
1386 TORRES, CLAIRE MARIE SONGCO
1387 TORRES, MA ANNA RUIZ
1388 TORRES, MARY ANN PANESA
1389 TORRES, PAUL IVAN DE OCAMPO
1390 TORRES, VIDDA ELAINE RAMOS
1391 TOVERA, RACQUEL TUPAS
1392 TRIA, MALAYA ANGELA LLORENTE
1393 TRINIDAD, IRIS MAE CAÑETE
1394 TRINIDAD, MITZI CAJAYON
1395 TRINIDAD, RANDOLPH BAYUCAN
1396 TRONCALES, AURA DALUSUNG
1397 TROVELA, SHEILA SOBREVIÑAS
1398 TUAZON, MA JUNALIAH TRINIDAD
1399 TUGUINAYO, XYLA BERMUDEZ
1400 TULANG, ROWENA MARIE GALLARDO
1401 TUMABIENE, KRISTINE DUEÑAS
1402 TY, ELINOR SALAZAR
1403 UNAY, CAROLYNNE FERNANDO
1404 USANA, SONNY-JUN RAYMUNDO
1405 USITA, GLENN DE GUZMAN
1406 USMAN, ALMUHAIMIN MASORONG
1407 USON, GARY GENEDEL JUSTINIANO
1408 UY, CHERYL TAN
1409 UY, IAN VAL DELA CRUZ
1410 UY, KIRK PATRICK MAXINO
1411 UY, SHIRLEY IVY PUA
1412 VALBUENA, MICHELLE BUENVIAJE
1413 VALDEZ, ANNA LIZA LAMORENA
1414 VALDEZ, CARLO LORENZO BALAGOT
1415 VALDEZ, MELLANIE LADABAN
1416 VALDEZ, MIRIAM DONNA TAYLAN
1417 VALDEZ, VALERIE ANN UY
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It took a series of expressions of concern from abroad to make President Arroyo issue a statement on the matter—and yet she did so after publicly praising Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, who has been tagged by leftist activists as the one behind many of the killings. No wonder human rights activists the world over continue to be skeptical of her sincerity or even concern.

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Not even leftist party-list representatives in Congress question the duty of the Armed Forces and the Philippine National Police to go after armed rebels. What causes universal concern, except probably in administration circles, is that individuals who have been critical of the government and who belong to perfectly legal political associations are being killed one by one. They, and the journalists in the provinces who have been slain, died because they were critical of the government and its allies. And who among the administration's defenders, either in politics or the media, have suffered as much as a scratch because of their beliefs? Surely that gives us more than a hint about who are behind the killings.

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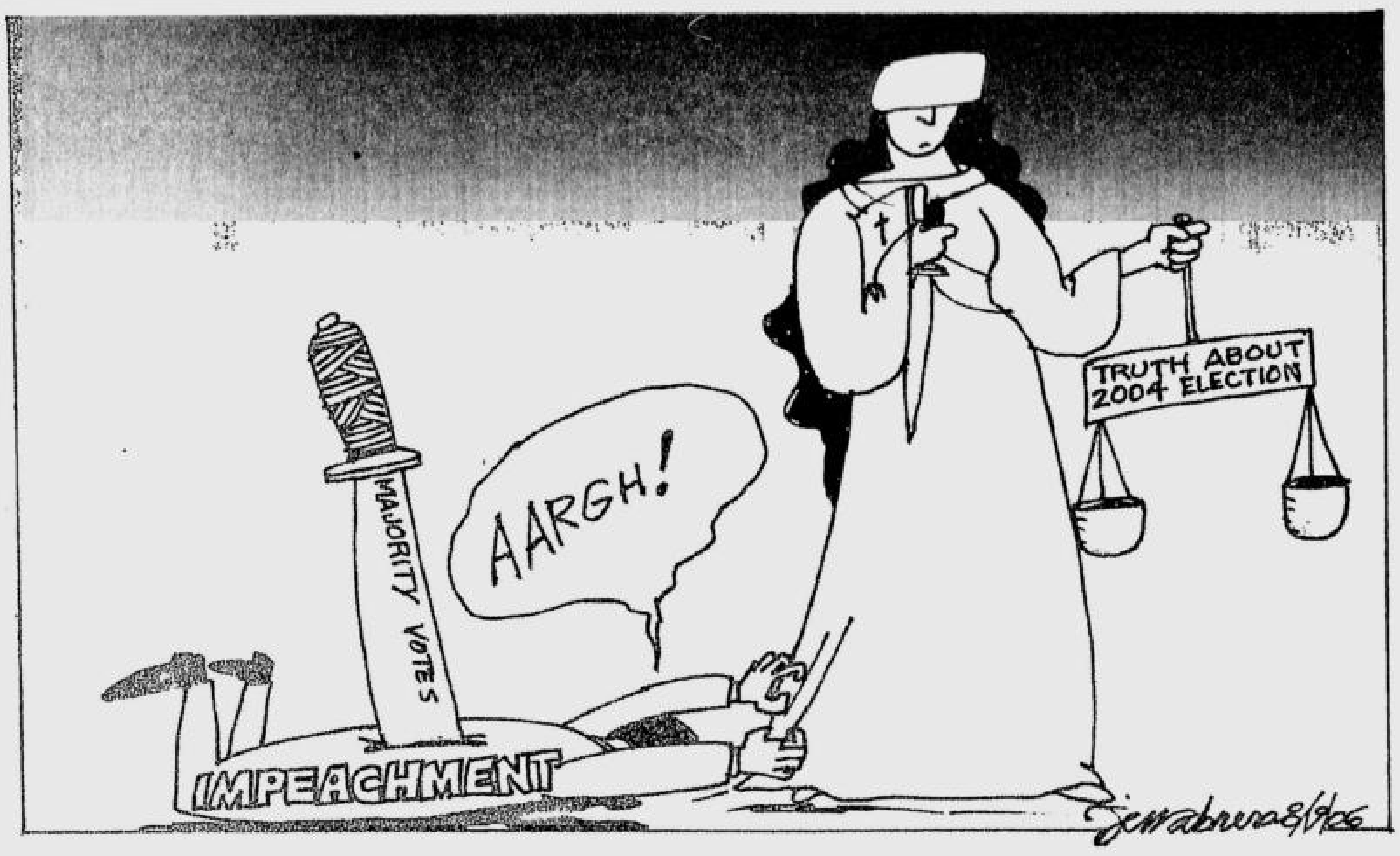

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Isagani A. Cruz

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The Estrada impeachment, while successfully initiated in the House of Representatives, was doomed from the start in the Senate. Despite the massive and damning evidence against the respondent, the 11 senators against him were 5 votes short against the 12 other senators solidly behind him. If the proceedings had not been prematurely ended, Estrada would have been acquitted and could have served the rest of his term.

The Gloria defenders were questioning the inclusion in the present impeachment complaint of the Garci tapes accusation on the ground that it was resolved last year with the dismissal of the first impeachment complaint. They claimed that the issue was already barred by *stare decisis* and could not be raised again this year. Valid or not, this argument will surely be invoked against the refiling next year of the same old charge that was dismissed this year. If this view is sustained by the Supreme Court—and who can predict how it will rule?—then the impeachers' plans next year will have been aborted this year.

To avoid this not improbable scenario, my unsolicited advice to the unsuccessful impeachers of Ms Arroyo is to lie low this year and not insist on their present complaint that has been dismissed by her cohorts in the Rainbow Coalition. This way, they can raise it more effectively next year, provided of course that they will have the numbers they did not have now to force Queen Gloria out of her wobbly throne.

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They should set their sights instead on the next elections that if not canceled by the No-el opportunists will be held in 2007 as scheduled by the Constitution they are seeking to mangle so they can remain in Congress and continue shystering for Madam Gloria until 2010. Winning the elections next year will give the routed minority now the required number to push through GMA's impeachment in the lower House and ensure her conviction and removal by the Upper House. (The "l" in "lower House" is intentionally lower case.)

The valid issues the opposition can raise against La Gloria are practically numberless. The Garci tapes and her manipulation of the votes that make her title to her present office highly questionable; the release of the fertilizer fund for the benefit not of the farmers but her questionable election; the convenient escape of Jocelyn Bolante with the aid of the administration to prevent him from making damaging confessions in the Senate investigation he successfully evaded; his ridiculous petition for asylum in the United States that the Philippine Republic is secretly endorsing; the involvement of GMA's family and satraps in Congress in many crooked transactions; the rising criminality and the increasing poverty of the masses; her failure to control the insurgency and the corruption in the Armed Forces and other government agencies; her "lapse in judgment" in many controversial cases; PP 1017 and EO 464, etc. etc… are all tinder for a conflagration of rage.

These issues can be used by the opposition to sway the elections next year against Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. The people's pent-up indignation against her abuses can elect a new officialdom that will have the necessary number to initiate a more damning impeachment complaint in the House of Representatives and enable the Senate to convict and remove her from the office she has dishonored as President of the Philippines.

Bravado this year will result only in flatulence and failure. An appeal to the Supreme Court will get them nowhere. The better strategy is to directly involve the electorate, through their honest votes next year, in finally ridding the country of Her Insufferable Excellency.

Intellectual dishonesty or ineptitude?

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

CRISLINE G. TORRES, A YOUNG FACULTY member of the political science department, is putting some of her older colleagues in the University of the Philippines to a great deal of embarrassment in the debate over the superiority of a parliamentary over a presidential form of government. She does this by pointing out that both sides appear to have ignored or disregarded some very important literature, which have serious policy implications to the pro-parliamentary position in the Philippines.

I am among those who are embarrassed. While her papers were published in 2003 and 2004, I only became aware of them last week. My excuse (weak) is that the papers are in the domain of political science, while my main interest lies in the economic impact of the two forms of government. But the greater embarrassment falls on the political scientists who, in their zeal for the parliamentary system, seem to have disregarded (intellectual dishonesty) this literature or are ignorant (inept scholarship) of it.

Torres' 2003 paper, "Democratic Survivability and the Parliamentary Critique of the Presidential Form of Government in the Philippines," should be read in its entirety to be appreciated. The gist of it is that the claim of local parliamentary advocates (e.g., Butch Abad, Pepe Abueva) that the parliamentary system is superior to the presidential system is based on empirical evidence, i.e., a 1993 study by Stepan and Skach, appears to be seriously flawed.

What are the findings of Stepan and Skach? First, they came up with 53 non-OECD countries that were characterized as democracies for at least one year between 1973 and 1989—28 were "pure parliamentary" and 25 were "pure presidential." They then counted the countries where democracy survived for 10 consecutive years between 1973 and 1989. They found that only 5 (20 percent) among the 25 presidential regimes survived as democracies, while 17 (61 percent) of the 28 parliamentary regimes did. Stepan and Skach concluded that "parliamentary democracies had a rate of survival [that is] more than three times higher than that of presidential democracies" (61 divided by 20).

Second, Stepan and Skach used the same technique (simple counting) on the 53-country data set to determine how many countries experienced military coups. They counted 5 (18 percent) among the 28 pure parliamentary democracies experiencing military coups, compared to 10 (40 percent) for the presidential democracies. They then concluded that "the presidential democracies were more than twice as likely as pure parliamentary democracies to experience a military coup" (40 divided by 18).

Finally, they looked at all the 93 countries regardless of regime that became independent between 1945 and 1979, and again counted how many evolved into or survived as continuously democratic over a 10-year period between 1980 and 1989. They found that not one presidential regime managed to survive as a democracy for 10 consecutive years, while 15 of the 41 parliamentary systems did.

Based on all these, Stepan and Skach concluded that parliamentarism is a more robust and enduring constitutional framework than presidentialism. And Abad et al. quote them, chapter and verse, without bothering to find out, or ignoring, what the critics of the study say, or even, without themselves questioning the statistical techniques—if you could call counting a statistical technique to show correlation—being used.

The critics had a lot to say about the methodological flaws: essentially, selection bias and spurious correlation.

Five flaws have been pointed out: first, the parliamentary democracies were mostly microstates (10 of the 15 with less than 1 million, and 4 of the 10 with less than 100,000 population)—more homogenous and less subject to conflict; the problems of governance profoundly differ between microstates and large ones. Second, the successful parliamentary democracies were biased toward former British colonies (14 of the 15), i.e., their survival as democracies could have been the result of British colonial legacies rather than parliamentary system per se. Third, the "successful" parliamentary democracies were overwhelmingly two-party systems, raising the possibility that it was the party system rather than form of government that influenced survivability. Fourth, changing the 1980-1989 time frame to other time frames—such as 1977-1995 or even to include the 1920s and 1930s—would give vastly different results, to wit: "we find no evidence that constitutional type has had any significant bearing on the success of Third World experiments in democracy between 1930 and 1995"; "there is no statistically significant difference between breakdown rates (of presidential and parliamentary democracies)." Finally, the selection of successful parliamentary democracies was biased against Latin America (excluded) and in favor of Africa (which would be "extremely challenged to evolve into or survive as democracies under any constitution").

In other words, the dice in the Stepan and Skach study were loaded against the presidential system. But parliamentary advocates still use the study as if it were gospel truth. And it is not as if they had no time to look at the literature: the critics of the SS study wrote between 1994 and 1997, while our local advocates were quoting from Stepan and Skach in 2002.

Whether this is a case of intellectual dishonesty or sheer ineptitude, the fact remains that the idol of a superior parliamentary democracy has feet of clay.

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OPINION

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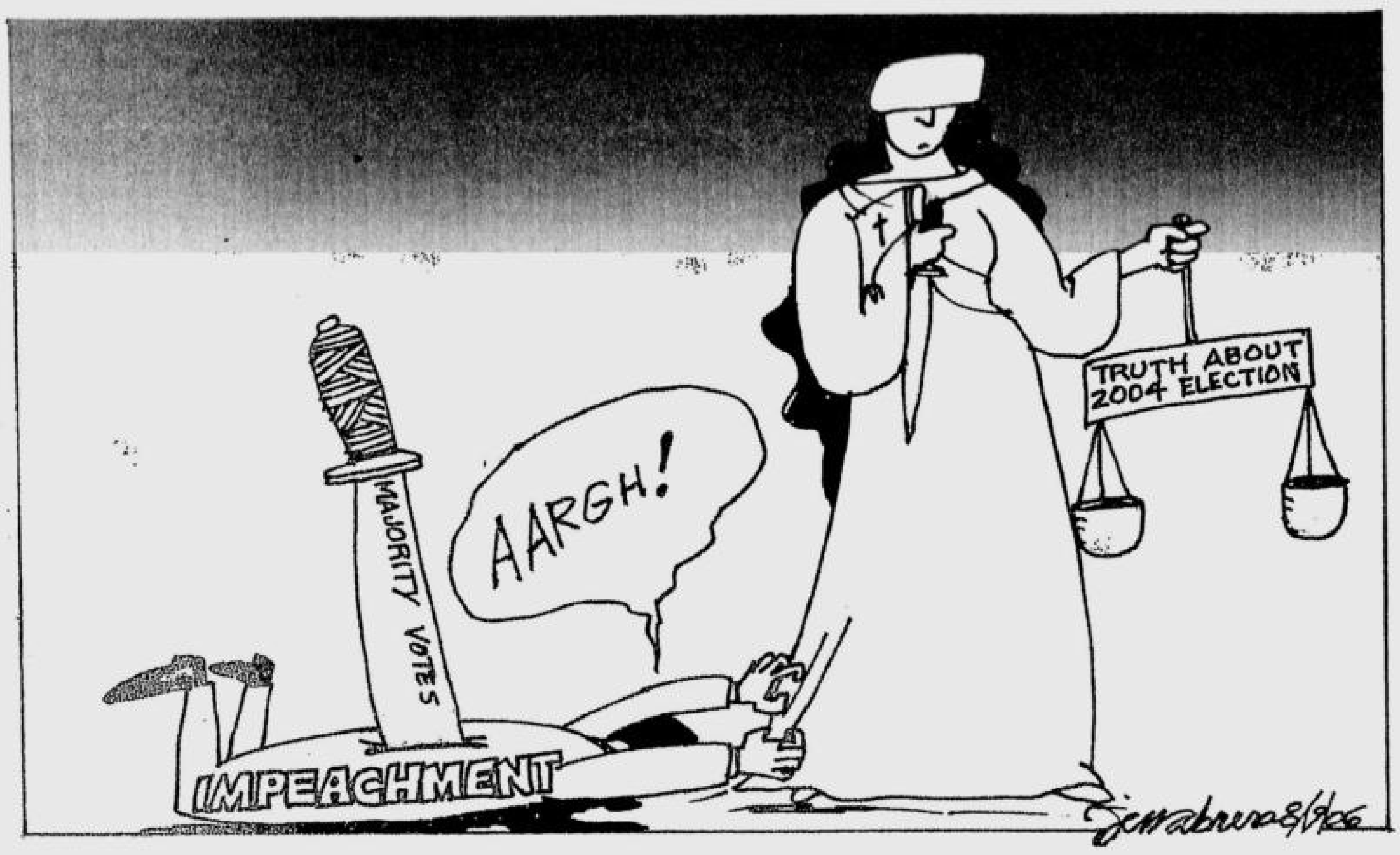

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Torres' 2003 paper, "Democratic Survivability and the Parliamentary Critique of the Presidential Form of Government in the Philippines," should be read in its entirety to be appreciated. The gist of it is that the claim of local parliamentary advocates (e.g., Butch Abad, Pepe Abueva) that the parliamentary system is superior to the presidential system is based on empirical evidence, i.e., a 1993 study by Stepan and Skach, appears to be seriously flawed.

What are the findings of Stepan and Skach? First, they came up with 53 non-OECD countries that were characterized as democracies for at least one year between 1973 and 1989—28 were "pure parliamentary" and 25 were "pure presidential." They then counted the countries where democracy survived for 10 consecutive years between 1973 and 1989. They found that only 5 (20 percent) among the 25 presidential regimes survived as democracies, while 17 (61 percent) of the 28 parliamentary regimes did. Stepan and Skach concluded that "parliamentary democracies had a rate of survival [that is] more than three times higher than that of presidential democracies" (61 divided by 20).

Second, Stepan and Skach used the same technique (simple counting) on the 53-country data set to determine how many countries experienced military coups. They counted 5 (18 percent) among the 28 pure parliamentary democracies experiencing military coups, compared to 10 (40 percent) for the presidential democracies. They then concluded that "the presidential democracies were more than twice as likely as pure parliamentary democracies to experience a military coup" (40 divided by 18).

Finally, they looked at all the 93 countries regardless of regime that became independent between 1945 and 1979, and again counted how many evolved into or survived as continuously democratic over a 10-year period between 1980 and 1989. They found that not one presidential regime managed to survive as a democracy for 10 consecutive years, while 15 of the 41 parliamentary systems did.

Based on all these, Stepan and Skach concluded that parliamentarism is a more robust and enduring constitutional framework than presidentialism. And Abad et al. quote them, chapter and verse, without bothering to find out, or ignoring, what the critics of the study say, or even, without themselves questioning the statistical techniques—if you could call counting a statistical technique to show correlation—being used.

The critics had a lot to say about the methodological flaws: essentially, selection bias and spurious correlation.

Five flaws have been pointed out: first, the parliamentary democracies were mostly microstates (10 of the 15 with less than 1 million, and 4 of the 10 with less than 100,000 population)—more homogenous and less subject to conflict; the problems of governance profoundly differ between microstates and large ones. Second, the successful parliamentary democracies were biased toward former British colonies (14 of the 15), i.e., their survival as democracies could have been the result of British colonial legacies rather than parliamentary system per se. Third, the "successful" parliamentary democracies were overwhelmingly two-party systems, raising the possibility that it was the party system rather than form of government that influenced survivability. Fourth, changing the 1980-1989 time frame to other time frames—such as 1977-1995 or even to include the 1920s and 1930s—would give vastly different results, to wit: "we find no evidence that constitutional type has had any significant bearing on the success of Third World experiments in democracy between 1930 and 1995"; "there is no statistically significant difference between breakdown rates (of presidential and parliamentary democracies)." Finally, the selection of successful parliamentary democracies was biased against Latin America (excluded) and in favor of Africa (which would be "extremely challenged to evolve into or survive as democracies under any constitution").

In other words, the dice in the Stepan and Skach study were loaded against the presidential system. But parliamentary advocates still use the study as if it were gospel truth. And it is not as if they had no time to look at the literature: the critics of the SS study wrote between 1994 and 1997, while our local advocates were quoting from Stepan and Skach in 2002.

Whether this is a case of intellectual dishonesty or sheer ineptitude, the fact remains that the idol of a superior parliamentary democracy has feet of clay.

RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME

Clear and predictable business policies needed

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

LAST WEDNESDAY EVENING THE HOUSE WAS full of tension as anti- and pro-impeachment lawmakers in the justice committee tangled over the impeachment complaint against the President. The gallery was packed with very partisan crowds which came up with different antics. Predictably, blood pressures shot up. At one point, fervent anti-impeachment advocate Marietta Cuenco-Cuyegkeng had to go to the House clinic, worried about her BP after getting riled up by the antics of the pro-impeachment crowd. When she got there, she found pro-impeachment advocate Sandra Cam, apparently also seeking relief from an elevated BP. Recall that Cam was the alleged *jueteng* bag lady who implicated the two Arroyo House members in her Senate testimonies. Then came Bataan Rep. Antonino Roman, also for a BP check. Other legislators must have ended up in the clinic that long tension-packed night.

* * *

I had wondered how Speaker Jose de Venecia himself was managing his BP that time. The following day, I ran into him at the One Town, One Product (OTOP) trade exhibit at the Megamall in Mandaluyong, and asked him about it. He said he was too busy "playing Kissinger" to both the majority and minority to worry about his BP. When the gallery crowds became really rowdy, justice chair Simeon Datumanong threatened to move the proceedings to the smaller Andaya Hall, which meant closing them to the public. When the crowds persisted, waving white envelops, Datumanong ordered the transfer. The majority trooped out in obedience, which some media quickly interpreted as a "walkout." The minority also stormed out, but in protest.

* * *

That was when JDV pushed his shuttle diplomacy. His objective was to get on with the committee vote and save the day. First, he called for the minority and sought to convince the 24 or so who showed up to return to the session hall and finish the voting. Any delay, he argued, would just increase the tension and set back the legislative agenda. He extracted from them the promise to make their supporters behave. Then he called the majority in and he coaxed the 55 who came to also go back to the session hall. As JDV recalled, *maraming mainit sa kanila*, especially Datumanong. After a long while, tempers simmered down and both sides agreed to return to the session hall. After two hours or so, the justice committee vote was out. By JDV's estimate, if last Wednesday's session had been aborted, the entire case would have lasted till next month. By next Tuesday or Wednesday the committee report is expected to be submitted to the plenary for voting, and the results are expected to hew closely to the committee voting.

* * *

At the 10th anniversary of the Apec Business Advisory Council in Cebu last weekend, founding chair Roberto Romulo disclosed that among its sponsors were four companies that have been in the Philippines for at least a hundred years. These are the Hongkong & Shanghai Bank Corporation (HSBC), Nestlé, the Zuellig Group and Shell Co. HSBC has been here ahead of them all, said Romulo, and following the seniority principle, he yielded the task of introducing President Macapagal-Arroyo to Stuart T. Gulliver, who's in charge of all HSBC corporate investments globally. Gulliver, who flew in to attend the meeting of GMA's "international advisory board" the day before, pointed out in his lunch speech that HSBC set up its first branch in Binondo in November 1875, a full 10 years after its founding abroad. Today, it has 21 branches in RP, including the 16 branches of HSBC Savings Bank (Philippines). Actually, I learned from new British Ambassador Peter Beckingham that there's another British bank even older—Standard Chartered Bank. It's said to have the original documents of the bank account of our national hero, Dr. Jose Rizal.

* * *

Gulliver stressed that being on GMA's advisory board had taught him that "governments everywhere face a daunting number of challenges," and that's not an easy job. Secondly, he said "the Philippines has a very bright future. Indeed we see a very bright future for the Pacific Rim, and in fact, we're counting on it and we're positioned for it." He noted that most of the Asian region is doing quite well, with some countries "doing extremely well." So much so that columnists, politicians and even a few business leaders are again touting the beginning of the so-called "Asian Century" and that "Asia's rise is irreversible." But Gulliver also had a word of caution for this country: "Business people and investors don't like surprises." He said it's important that government policies are clear, stable and predictable, and not subject to change all the time. He noted that what makes China "such an attractive place to invest" is not necessarily the pace of liberalization, but rather, "its commitment to continue to liberalize despite an enormous amount of distractions." Sound advice for our trade and finance officials.

* * *

I had a great time last Thursday looking at the myriad items (from towns all over Luzon) at the OTOP exhibit at the Megamall. I strongly endorse a visit (open today and tomorrow). You can get many export items, in addition to foodstuffs, such as *chorizos* from Nueva Ecija, processed *bangus* from Pangasinan and gorgeous Zambales mangoes. I was glad to discover the parmesan cheese made in Talavera, Nueva Ecija from carabao milk at a much cheaper price. Earlier, Bulacan Gov. Josie de la Cruz told me that *mozzarella* is being produced now by an Italian group in her province. I found very good *lambanog* or "cocovodka" from Tayabas, "chichacorn" from Ilocos Sur, gorgeous roasted *pili* from Camarines Norte and *barongs* from Bagong Barrio in Pandi, Bulacan. I discovered, too, that *bagoong* from Lingayen is now packaged in sachets, ideal as *pasalubong* for US relatives.

* * *

Catch the interview of President Arroyo by Cecile Alvarez and myself tomorrow evening at 9:15 over dzRH.

'Iskwater'

COMMENTARY

Roberto S. Salva
Institute on Church and Social Issues

A FEW WEEKS AGO, MANY STUDENTS PANicked when it was announced that classes would resume after two days of suspension. My Yahoo Messenger was clogged with messages from students I taught last year. The crafty passed around hoax announcements of a suspension extension from the Department of Education or the "Commission on High School Education." The gullible and unaware reacted with a "yehey!" and a rolling-on-the-floor icon. The skeptic replied with a "weh!" The desperate passed around a "Prayer for No Classes." These were students from a middle-class Catholic school for boys, and when the announcement of the resumption of classes arrived, supposedly from GMA, one of them protested, *"Iskwater si GMA!"* (GMA's a squatter!)

I know these students well. They have become my friends, due perhaps to the havoc I caused every class meeting we had last year with my barely passing classroom management style. They can be spontaneously wise. But the student who blurted out those words about GMA was not referring to GMA's still-questioned occupancy of Malacañang. He was simply frustrated and the moniker that best described the source of that frustration was "*iskwater*." To teenagers, especially those enrolled in exclusive, middle-class schools, the best way to get back at people who get on their nerves is to call them *iskwater*.

Teenagers call their dark complexioned, pimply, and badly dressed classmates *iskwater*. The ill-mannered, the bully and the antisocial are *iskwater* as well. The teachers are mercilessly not exempted. The boring, the ill-prepared, the short-tempered and the irrationally demanding are all *iskwater*. It is as though, to the urban middle-class Filipino teenager, all the negative characteristics a person can have are condensed in that one word.

Young people can be very candid, especially when they are among peers. Name-calling—the power to define—has been one of their reliable weapons and their source of fun. Somehow, through name-calling, they create definitions unique to themselves. And these definitions come from certain perceptions and eventually become prescriptions to action, that is, if they have not yet come to action.

Last year, I did an informal survey on my students' idea of poverty. I was really surprised to read their replies to the question, "Why are there poor Filipinos?" I was surprised because their idea of poverty was still the same idea the Spaniards had when they lorded over the *encomiendas* of this country: "*Dahil tamad sila.*" (Because they are indolent.) That answer brings to mind the overfed Fray Damaso shouting to the Indio faithful from an elevated pulpit.

I don't blame the middle-class teenagers. They are teenagers. They are open to influence and usually, in their search for expressions unique to them, they end up mirroring the status quo. A co-teacher actually returned the same answer when asked: "The poor are poor because they are not helping themselves." The teacher has been teaching social studies for a long time now. Well, if we listen to the conversations of the denizens of the now sprawling cafés, we can hear similar comments.

But we don't have to sneak into cafés and spy on the habitués' conversations to learn about these things. We don't have to sneak into the well-guarded exclusive schools to learn about this pervasive perception of the poor.

In its most benign form, this perception is merely an assertion of one group's obvious difference from the other. There is a difference between the regulars inside the cafés and the regular car watchers waiting on them outside. There is a difference between those who are sipping their hot coffees with foreign names and those who pick up the used paper cups from trash bins at the end of the day for dregs and for the P20 each kilo of those cups brings. There is a difference between my students in the exclusive school and the students in public schools.

However, this perception is based only on what we see on the surface. It is based on what seems to be a lack of manners in those who watch over the parked cars, or the street urchins who bug everyone. It is based on how they look, what they wear and how they treat each other.

The perception is based on the cramped dwellings, the dingy and supposedly dangerous environment. It is based on what seems foolish in their attempt to make a living out of hawking. It is based on what we consider as their work ethic, seeing construction workers taking siesta on site.

This is a pervasive perception anchored on appearances, and I'm afraid that it will not stay only as a thought in the head. It is already expressed in a subgroup's lingo. Teenagers now use the poor as a means to describe what is foul, dingy or frustrating. It is already a weapon masked in hilarity.

But, it is not all that hopeless. I was checking journals of some students who had their immersion in the informal settlements around the Batasan Complex. In the journals, they candidly revealed how they cowered at the first meeting. They were frightened and then, troubled. They saw the difference between their situation and attitude and those of the *iskwater*. But after a few weeks, when they got to know the informal settlers, the students saw the similarities: They saw the *iskwater*'s person and they saw themselves.

Teenagers are open and their openness shows us a way. If teenagers' conversations reveal to us a permeating attitude toward the poor, their experience shows us a way to respond. We do not merely lock our cars, converse with friends inside the air-conditioned café and look at those who watch over our cars, the children begging on the street, the families rummaging through the trash. These are not scenes from a social realist art: That's *iskwater*.

Lessons of the Lebanon war

WORLD VIEW

Daoud Kuttab

WARS ARE WON NOT ONLY ON BATTLEFIELDS, but also in people's minds. So, while Hezbollah has not decisively won its current war with Israel, by maintaining its ability to fight in the face of the might of the Israeli army, it has captured the imagination of Arabs, restoring lost pride in the same way as the Egyptian Army's crossing of the Suez Canal in the war of 1973 did. Restored pride was central to Anwar Sadat's eventual decision to go to Jerusalem and regain the entire Sinai Peninsula for Egypt.

Although ordinary Lebanese have paid a huge human, economic, and infrastructural price, Hezbollah has made it clear to the Israelis that they can no longer take their military predominance for granted. The limits of military power have been exposed. Moreover, the madness of war has been clearly demonstrated to all, and, once the current fighting is over, both sides are now more likely to be cautious about actions that might push their peoples and countries into war once more.

How this war is concluded will likely change the ways in which both Israel and the international community deal with the fundamental national aspirations of Arab peoples. Holding Arab land and prisoners indefinitely will no longer be an asset but a terrible burden.

Conventional thinking in the Middle East has largely been built on Israel's overwhelming military strength, together with the disunity and lack of purpose of Arab leaders. But, in less than two months, the almost mythic power of the region's most powerful army has been dented, and Hassan Nasrallah, Hezbollah's leader, has come across as a steadfast and determined leader, in sharp contrast to the usual behavior of heads of Arab government.

The question now is whether this determination can bring about the type of surprising breakthrough to peace that Sadat's newfound prestige in 1973 yielded. Ironically instead of weakening Lebanon, one clear winner of this war is the unity and independent will of Lebanon.

Whether or not the war in Lebanon has helped or hurt the Palestinians is unclear. Because most media attention has shifted to Lebanon, the Israelis have had a free hand to continue pressing the Palestinians without international protest. Palestinians continue to be killed on a daily basis not only in Gaza but also in Nablus, in the West Bank. More than 170 Palestinians have died since the violence began in June.

Yet the connection between the two wars has not gone unnoticed. In the United States, President George W. Bush and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice see the problems as linked, as does British Prime Minister Tony Blair. Indeed, the crises in Lebanon and Gaza have brought about a realization that two festering issues—Arab prisoners in Israel, and Israeli unilateralism—must be resolved if there is to be any hope of a return to the peace process.

Given that both conflicts were triggered by the kidnapping of Israeli soldiers to be traded for Arab prisoners, Israel must now realize that holding Arabs indefinitely in prison can only beget violence. Israel's national security adviser, Giora Eiland, appears to have recognized this even before the violence began. In May, he is said to have advised Israeli Prime Minister Yehud Olmert that Israel should hand over the disputed Sheba Farms area on the border with Lebanon and Syria, as well as return Lebanese prisoners.

Olmert reportedly did not see the need. But holding 300 Lebanese and nearly 10,000 Palestinians—all of the first group and many of the second group without charge or trial—has proven to be a major source of irritation to the Arab peoples of the region.

One group of prisoners that will likely benefit from the current situation are Jordanians held in Israeli jails. Jordan, a US ally and one of the two Arab countries with a peace agreement with Israel, previously failed to secure the release of its 30 prisoners. They are now likely to be the first ones set free.

Important as they are, however, the prisoners are not the crux of the matter. The real issue is the unilateralism that has been adopted by the major parties that have ruled Israel. Both the uncoordinated withdrawals from south Lebanon (by the Labor party after 22 years of occupation) and from Gaza (by Likud after 39 years of occupation) proved that you can't simply evacuate an area and forget about it. The population left behind must have secure governments and institutions in place. On the most basic level, for example, the people of south Lebanon needed maps of where Israel had laid mines, but these were never provided.

The unilateralism that Israelis overwhelmingly voted for in their recent election is based on the idea that security can somehow be achieved by erecting physical walls and barriers. The barrage of Hezbollah and Hamas rockets has shown the folly of such thinking. And, although the West Bank has not been used to launch rockets against Israel, there is no reason the Palestinians who reside there will not resort to such weapons if walls continue to be built deep inside their territories and Israel continues to act with arrogance toward them.

Soldiers are the first to recognize that military power is of limited value in achieving long-term peace. It is past time that political leaders on both sides, especially moderate ones, also come to understand this. They need to work together through negotiations to solve problems that simply cannot and should not be solved by brute force.

Project Syndicate

Daoud Kuttab is director of the Institute of Modern Media at Al-Quds University and founder of the Arab world's first Internet radio station AmmanNet.

The call

YOUNG BLOOD

John Jay C. Magpusao

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

I WAS NOT TELLING IT TO ANYONE AT FIRST. BUT FINALLY I had to tell my family, and my colleagues in the free-standing clinical laboratory. I had to tell them why I was resigning. There were just a few of us and naturally we quickly developed nice working and personal relationships. We bonded inside and outside the laboratory. They were like a family to me, and leaving them behind was difficult. But I had to do it—for a greater purpose.

The common reaction of my family, my colleagues and my friends, whom I told about my decision much later, was shock and disbelief. "What?" they would exclaim. "Are you sure?"

It was another way of saying "Are you nuts?" or "*Ano ba'ng nakain mo?*" And this was exactly the reason I hesitated to tell anyone about it.

I had already planned my career. I wanted to really make good as a medical technologist. I planned to leave for some foreign land in a couple of years, and my mother assured me of her full support, particularly with regard to the financial requirements. I told her that in return, I would spend for the renovation of our house and buy her a car some time after that.

But things took a 180-degree turn. A call I received over the phone in my workplace changed it all. It was a call that I had been waiting for for quite sometime. It was the call my heart desired most. The call that brought me inexplicable joy. The call that was the sweetest music my ears had ever heard and which in fact continues to echo in my heart and in my mind.

"Ma, is it OK with you if I can no longer give you help in renovating our house and buy you a car?" I asked her.

"Well, I can do nothing about it," she said. "It's all right. Don't worry. What is important is you made a choice. We are always here to support you."

"Pa, I'm going in," I told my father.

"It's up to you," he replied. "You are old enough. Just make good in your choice of vocation."

I entered the seminary on an inspiration that came into my life as a big surprise. "How come you arrived at such a decision?" I have been asking myself over and over again. I had not planned on becoming a religious priest, not even in my wildest dream. But the call came.

At my age, I should have been well on the way to having a fine career, proving to myself and everybody else that I could achieve a lot of things, especially in our age when individualism, materialism and consumerism are the predisposition of the youth and adults alike. And in an age when the Roman Catholic Church is besieged by scandal and controversy, why indeed should I become a priest? It's an unusual decision to make for a young man of my generation. I can serve God and His people even if don't answer this vocation. So, what's the difference?

With all these considerations churning in my mind, deciding to enter the seminary did not come easy. It could not have been a product of mere rationalization or mere emotion or, as we would say, *trip lang*. Though I had only a vague idea of what the word meant (I heard it first spoken when I consulted a priest about my plan and he told me, "You discern"), I discerned. I looked deeper into myself *kung ano ba talaga. Nag-isip. Nakiramdam*. It was a long, painstaking process. I had to search for the answers to many questions and more questions: *Talaga bang tinawag ako? Makakayanan ko kaya? Karapat-dapat ba ako?*

This is a life of dependence and grace. "To let go and let God" is not an easy thing to do. I left my career, my family, my friends and other dear and familiar faces and places. I left my comfort zone. I gave in to the beat of the hollow muscular organ located between my lungs.

I know I'm not going to be a messiah. I have no illusions about that. I cannot hope to eradicate all the pains and troubles we are suffering in this world just by becoming a priest. I cannot summon a tsunami to sweep away the corrupt *trapos* in our government and the greedy multinational and transnational companies sucking the bountiful resources of our country while maintaining unjust labor practices. I only have a very limited capacity to achieve things that are truly worthwhile in this world. But I have this desire that in my own simple and special way and with dedication and compassion, I will be able to share my life with others and have some positive impact on their lives through the Church and through this vocation.

In line with my congregation's charism, I have had the opportunity to wash and bathe paraplegic and quadriplegic patients in our Home of Charity. I have brushed their teeth, wiped off their mess, changed their diapers, cleaned up their catheters and urine containers, dressed their sores and skin infections, dressed them up, swept their rooms, fixed their beds, helped them eat—all of which I never did for my family.

In our visitations to hospitals, patients and their watchers were grateful even just for my simple presence and the time I spent listening to them and talking to them—the things many sick people miss and seem not to have enough. And it is so amazing how, after each simple apostolate, I feel a deep joy and fulfillment in my heart that I am sure dollars or euros cannot give. From my little experience with them and because I know that there are many others like them who strongly believe in God and need spiritual healing, guidance and understanding along with physical healing, I am more and more inspired to press on to practice "Faith in Action."

I pray that God will sustain me on this mission.

John Jay C. Magpusao, 27, is starting his one-year novitiate in the Order of St. Camillus, a congregation of religious priests and brothers who dedicate their lives to the service of the sick.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

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Adamson's pride, officials' shame

WHEN CRITICIZED BY CHURCH people, the government, through its smart spokespersons and astute political allies, is quick to invoke the Church-State separation doctrine. When needed most by its citizens, the government is many steps behind what Church people are doing—basic tasks and obligations that the government should be the first to do.

Although it is not his intention, the many good things Fr. Agustin "Gestie" Advincula, C.M. has done to ease the plight of overseas Filipino workers in Lebanon, should mortify many of our government officials who seem to habitually fail in the quick delivery of services and assistance. Unmindful of the risks, Father Gestie is doing everything he can to help his compatriots.

With nothing to lose, Fr. Nonong Fajardo, C.M., a.k.a. "Fr. Riles" (PDI, 7/25/06), helps the impoverished residents along the rail tracks get a fair deal in the relocation process.

If any common thread binds the two C.M. priests, it is perhaps their concern for the socially disadvantaged and, if we may add, a "background-hugging" work attitude. The humane gestures and the no-nonsense, pro-poor bias are values imbibed way back in college. That these are happening on the cusp of something big is no small matter.

Father Gestie and Father Nonong happen to be among the countless alumni who will add meaning and inspiration to Adamson University's Diamond Jubilee celebration in February 2007. While they are protective of their "self-effacing rights," the university can't help feeling proud of them.

—RAUL AGNER,
Library-Archives Section,
Adamson University,
San Marcelino St., Ermita, Manila

Motivated only by love of country

ON AUG. 2, 2006, WE, THE undersigned, together with seven other women, filed before Congress, a Motion to Dismiss in Intervention all the impeachment complaints filed against the President. The INQUIRER reported the event the next day in a news story with the headline "GMA 'amigas' want impeach raps junked."

We would like the public to know that we filed the motion motivated by our love of country, after much forethought, and having in mind that we and other similar taxpayers and citizens, are entitled "to be governed by a President who is free from harassment and incessant and baseless assaults on the legitimacy of her presidency," and "a House of Representatives that is focused on its primary mandate to legislate," and "to see to it that government or public funds are spent wisely and not wasted."

To paraphrase an earlier statement of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, impeachment is an unproductive political exercise if not guided by no other motive than genuine concern for the common good.

That the incumbent President may become the beneficiary of our action is incidental. Moreover, friendship here is irrelevant. Only a few among us know or are known to her. And to call ourselves her friends would be presumptuous.

To denigrate our effort by dismissively labeling us as "Arroyo friends" or "GMA 'amigas'" is sarcastic, unfair and totally uncalled for. We declare that we are independent professionals whose actions are based on principles, rather than mere friendship, blind loyalty or worse yet, financial considerations.

The INQUIRER's labeling takes attention away from the true purpose and objective of our effort. We are disappointed in its editorialized reportage.

—EVELYN KILAYKO,
BESSY BUENCAMINO,
MARIETTA CUYEGKENG,
SOI NUYDA , SUZETTE PIDO,
PILAR BALCE, LILY ORENDAIN,
ESPERANZA ARKONCEL,
EMILIA CAPARAS
AND PEGGY VERA

Honest pedicab driver a true Filipino

UPON READING "PEDICAB MAN returns bag with P104,000" (PDI, 8/6/06), I heaved a sigh of relief as if I were the one who lost the money.

Honesty, a trait that Filipinos highly regard as a gift from God, made pedicab driver Jose Buenaventura return a considerable amount of money to its rightful owner Carolina Distor, who was "frantically searching for the P104,000" that was intended to pay for a house the couple wanted to buy.

Honesty made Buenaventura a celebrity overnight. In this time of economic crisis and extreme hunger, in a nation governed by a power-hungry elite, it is rare to find the likes of Buenaventura who, despite life's hardships—he lives in a ramshackle house" and earns only around P150 to P200 a day after 12 hours of "driving" a pedicab—does not want to stain his good name.

It is but natural for Distor to reward him P10,000 for his honesty.

Despite his lowly status in life, we hold Buenaventura in high esteem. He is not only honest but also a true Filipino. May his tribe increase in the years to come and run the affairs of government in the future.

—TRINIDAD ESTURAS PETEZA,
JP Rizal Street,
Barangay Camambugan,
Daet, Camarines Norte 4600

Games 'trapos' play with Pinoys

OUR POLITICIANS ARE TRYING to con us into believing that a parliamentary system of government is the answer to all our problems. This was refuted by Indian industrialist Ramesh Bajaj of Bajaj Motors who was featured in the "Hard Talk" program of the British Broadcasting Co. last May 24, 2006. Bajaj Motors manufactures scooters and motorcycles which are sold here in the Philippines.

Bajaj blames the parliamentary system for the poverty in India. He says, in this type of government the Cabinet ministers must be members of the parliament and are thus usually incompetent. Bajaj blames incompetent Cabinet ministers for the problems of that country, such as corruption and lack of infrastructure which make the distribution of goods very costly.

The outspoken Bajaj suggests that members of the Cabinet should be recruited from outside the parliament (probably from the private sector as in the presidential system) so that the government will enjoy the services of experts, not of incompetent and corrupt politicians.

Usually the Cabinet secretaries in our country come from the private sector (except in this administration). Though they have little power (politicians still call the shots), they are able to mitigate whatever damage the politicians inflict on the country.

We will probably be worse off under a parliamentary system. Many people are saying that under a parliamentary system, the entire national budget will become one big pork barrel.

Why do we allow our politicians to enrich themselves by playing games with us? It is high time we put our foot down and kicked out these scoundrels.

—RICO XERES,
Eisenhower Street,
Greenhills, San Juan, Manila

SPEEDY
thorough investigation
of Leakage

WOULD-BE nurses calling for speedy government action on the leakage

PDI PHOTO

Unfair to board examinees who did not cheat

HOW TO PROPERLY HANDLE the controversy over the leakage in the nursing licensure exams held last June is a challenge to authorities.

As reported by media, the alleged sources and beneficiaries of the leakage have been identified: two members of the Board of Nursing, a popular review center and its reviewees. The successful examinees from the review center can be easily identified through pertinent documents. These examinees should not be allowed to join the nursing profession as if nothing happened. If they would just be asked to retake the exams, the government's entire licensure examination system will lose its credibility in the eyes of the international community. The Professional Regulation Commission should not allow this to happen.

To protect the integrity of government licensure examinations, the PRC should investigate and punish them, together with the nursing board and the concerned review center, if found guilty. This will send the correct signal that we are not condoning irregularities in our licensure examinations.

On the other hand, it would not be fair to deprive the thousands of other successful examinees who did not cheat of their hard-earned right to become full-fledged nurses. To disallow them from taking their oath on the mere speculation that they also cheated would be most unjust.

—MARCELO L. TECSON,
martecson@yahoo.com

Include animals in evacuation programs

IF AUTHORITIES WANT "STUBborn" people to evacuate the areas surrounding Mayon Volcano, they must make arrangements to shelter their animals, too. ("Stubborn evacuees go back for books, feed pets," PDI, 8/9/06) If we must learn anything from Hurricane Katrina, it is that people's lives are at risk when they are given no choice but to abandon their animals when they have to evacuate.

If conditions aren't safe for people, they aren't safe for animals either. Many people consider animals members of the family. So, naturally, they won't easily abandon them to starve or burn alive. It is cruel and heartless to force people to abandon their pets.

Animals must be included in disaster-response programs, if not for their own sake, then for the sake of the people who would rather die than leave them.

—JANICE,
haevingiel@gmail.com

Clearinghouse not the solution to CTPL mess

THE LOBBYING BEING DONE IN Malacañang by the insurance companies engaged in the sale of the compulsory third party liability (CTPL) policy is deplorable. ("Palace asked to step into auto insurance row," PDI, 8/4/06)

The insurance companies are moving heaven and earth to force the Land Transportation Office into linking up with a clearinghouse for the issuance of CTPL policies, citing as reason the proliferation of bogus CTPLs.

But before these insurance companies prescribe a solution to a problem hatched nowhere else but in their own garden, I think they should first throw out the bad eggs in their basket. And there are so many bad eggs in the CTPL industry as made evident by the many fraudulent CTPLs being sold to motorists.

If run by the insurers themselves, the proposed clearinghouse will not be able to stop the sale of fake CTPLs. The more viable solution to the CTPL mess is for the government itself to have a hand in the issuance of CTPL policies, as proposed by the Government Service Insurance System.

As I have gathered from news reports, the GSIS charter allows the state pension fund to engage in the sale of non-life insurance policies. Naturally, with the entry of the GSIS into the business, those behind the sale of fake CTPLs will feel threatened by the prospect of their multimillion-peso racket coming to an abrupt end.

I believe that given a choice between buying what could be bogus CTPL policies and buying genuine policies, motorists would surely buy from a legitimate seller. The reputation of the GSIS as the No. 1 GOCC (government-owned and -controlled corporation) in terms of assets and services will entice motorists to procure their CTPL policies from the state pension fund.

—SHELL SALAMAT,
229 San Nicolas,
Hagonoy, Bulacan

INQUIRER
TV GUIDE
Saturday, August 19, 2006
iDOL ABC
Ang kwento ng panget na pinaganda!
Betty la fea
Mon-Sun
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Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5	Kid's TV	KNN	Anime Ring Kaisho		PBA					Wow Maling Mali		Ripley's Believe It Or Not		ABCinema					
ABS-CBN 2		Star Magic Presents		Nagmamahal, Kapamilya		Let's Go		Komiks		John En Shirley		TV Patrol World	XXX		Aslog alog		Sabado Movie Greats		Sports Unlimited
AXN								WRC 2004 Rally XS: Germany	E Buzz	The Ultimate Fighter		The Contender (Season II)		House				Supernatural (Season I)	
Cartoon Network	Hi Hi Puffy AmiYumi	The Road Runner Show	Tom & Jerry Show	Bot Alien/Planet Sketch/Camp Lazlo/ Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy		Cow & Chicken/ [illegible] Camp Lazlo/ Grim Adventures Of Mandy & Billy		Robotboy	The Simpsons	Barbie Fairytopia/ [illegible] Scooby Goes Hollywood/ [illegible] In Jamaica		Courage The Cowardly Dog	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	The Simpsons/ Power Rangers Dino Thunder	The Batman/ Gundam Seed Destiny	Power Rangers Dino Thunder/ The Simpsons	Gundam Seed/ The Brak Show	Justice League Unlimited	Aqua Teen Hunger Force/ The Batman
Cinema One	Booz Of U				Feng Shui		Otso-Otso Pamela-Mela Wan								Ang Anak Ni Brocka				
Cinemax				The Big Chill (3:50PM)			[illegible] (5:40PM)				The Rundown (7:20PM)			Naked Gun 33 1/3: The Final Insult			Man-Thing (10:20PM)		
CNN		World News		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	World News		World News	World Sport	World News				Talk Asia	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart
Crime/Suspense		Masterminds	Forensic Files	Profiler		Psychic Detectives	Body Of Evidence	What Should You Do?		Prison Break		Prison Break		E-Ring		Tequila Sunrise			
Disney Channel	Art Attack/ Billy & Buddy	Totally Spies New Season Yr. 4	Kim Possible	Brandy & Mr. Whiskers	Lilo & Stitch	Martin Mystery	American Dragon	Emperor's New School	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	That's So Raven/ Legend Of Ring Of Fire Special	Wonderful World Of Disney			Mr. Bean	America's Funniest Home Video	Kim Possible	Martin Mystery	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN						Evian Masters Highlights		LPGA Golf Safeway Classic Presented By Pepsi 2nd Rd.				Major League Baseball Friday						Ten Seasons, A Decade of Great	
ETC		Everwood 2		Friends 10	Will & Grace 4	Veronica Mars 2		The O.C. 3		Beauty And The Geek 2		Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		Saturday Night Live		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
ETC 2nd Avenue		Trading Spouses		Today Show - 1 Hour Version		Dateline		The Biggest Loser 2		NBC Nightly News	Hollywood One On One	Skating With Celebrities		Inside The Actor's Studio		ER		NBC Nightly News	WSJR
EWTN	Visionaries, Mystics & Stigmatists	Chaplet Of Mercy/ Angelus	Image Of God	Adventures In Odyssey	Rosary With Mother Angelica	Knights Of St. Michael	Catholic Compass		Life Is Worth Living	The World Over Encore		Daily Mass		Holy Land Rosary/ Angelus	The Word Was Made Flesh	Voices On Virtue	Backstage	Life on The Rock Encore	
Fox News		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Special Report With Brit Hume		Fox & Friends Saturday						Bulls & Bears	Cavuto On Business	Forbes On Fox	Cashin' In
GMA 7	Startalk				Wish Ko Lang (4:20 PM)		Encantadia (5:20 PM)		Pinoy Pop Superstar		Bitoy's Funniest Videos (7:20 PM)		Kapuso Mo, Jessica Soho	Imbestigador (9:05 PM)			Hokus Pokus (10:20 PM)		Showbiz Stripped
Hallmark Channel		The Seventh Stream			[illegible] (4:45 PM)					Within These Walls	Jackie, Ethel, Joan: Women Of Camelot	Jackie, Ethel, Joan: Women Of Camelot							
HBO			The Fugitive				Mother (5:45 PM)							Christmas With The Kranks			Entourage 07: The Sundance (10:35 PM)	Entourage 08: New York	New On The Big Screen In August
Hero TV	Machine Robo Rescue	Dear Boys	Demon Lord Dante	Baki The Grappler	Zenki	Rockman	Peacemaker	Sorcerer Orphen	Barom One	Babel II	Mars The Terminator G3		Voltes V Evolution	Street Fighter OVA			Ragnarok	Demon Lord Dante	Baki The Grappler
IBC 13		Home Shopping Network		Nature's Peacekeeper	Auto Review	Getz Mo Getz Ko		Pangarap Kong Jackpot		EBC Earth Files		Japan Video Topics/ Aims		Brag		Pilipinas Sabong Sports			
JackTV	My Name Is Earl	Always Sunny In Philadelphia	Arrested Development	Last Comic Standing		The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	The Daily Show Jon Stewart	X-Men	X-Men	The Batman	Justice League	Wwe Raw				Weekend At The D.L.	Reno 911	Insomniac With Dave Attell	Manshow
Lifestyle Network	Living Space	HGTV Special		Sheila Bridges: Designer Living	Radical Sabbatical	Simply Wine With Andrea Immer	Inside Dish	My Country, My Kitchen	Emeril Live		Iron Chef America		Merge		Style Star	I Do Diaries		E! Extra: 101 Most Awesome Moments In Entertainment	
MTV Philippines										Laguna Beach	8th & Ocean								
MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Bandarito	MYX News	MYX Presents		Take 5	Radio MYX	Top Of The Pops	Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Live!		Pinoy MYX Countdown				MYX Backtrax	MYXILOG
National Geographic		The Living Edens: Arctic Dens; Canada's Southampton Island		Killer Asteroid		Killer Asteroid/ Asteroids: Deadly Impact		Wild Indonesia: Creatures Of Island Kingdom		The Taiwan Touch: [illegible]	The Taiwan Touch: Taiwan Wild	The Living Edens: Big Sur: California's Wild Coast		Air Crash Investigation: Flight 990 (Pt 1 & 2)		Air Crash Investigation: Flying On Empty		Air Crash Investigation: Cutting Corners	
NBN		Teledyaryo Alas-Tres		Bakbakan Sa Tagaytay		Kamao		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Youth Voice Debate		GSIS Member's Hour		Isa Hour On NBN		A.S.K.		Krusada Kontra Krimen	
Net 25	INC Chronicles (Filipino)	In Focus	Euromaxx	Ang Mga Nagsi-[illegible] Daan		Ang Tamang Daan		Net 25 Weekend Report	DWTV Journal Weekend Edition	Tribe	Convergence	Ang Mga Nagsi-[illegible] Daan		Ang Pagbubuyag		Net 25 Weekend Report	Euromaxx	DWTV Journal Weekend Edition	Auto Motor Sport
Nickelodeon	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	Zoey 101	Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide	Just For Kicks	Catscratch	Avatar, Legend Of Aang	Danny Phantom	Trollz	SpongeBob SquarePants	Just For Kicks	Zoey 101	Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide	Dark Oracle	Girls In Love	The Amanda Show	The Brothers Garcia	The Fairly Odd Parents	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Pita Hanggang Sa Huli				[illegible]				Tunog Banda				Buggy				Misteryosa
Qtv		Lois And Clark		Galaxy Angels		Posh		Fans Kita		Ayll Robot		Day-Off		Sabado Showdown				Groupee TV	
RPN 9		Go Negosyo		Biyaheng Langit	Ride, Eat, Travel	Man & Machine		Jumbong Mel (Tulfo Brothers)		Blind Justice		CSI Miami		Saturday Night Playhouse		Shepherds Voice			
SBN 21								Barangay Uniting Thru Christ		Sony Music Video		Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng [illegible]				Sony Music Video	
Solar Sports		Billiards								2006 FIBA World Championship Games Argentina Vs France				2006 FIBA World C'ships Games Puerto Rico vs USA				GWS 33-2006	NBA Access
Sports Plus			Golf Today	5th Samsung Amateur Golf	Inside the PGA	Raceworld		World Poker Tour Hollywood Home				UFC Special [illegible]				The International Highlights		[illegible] Classic Day 1	
Star Movies				The Day After Tomorrow				The Aviator (6:10 PM)						The Wedding Date			Barbershop 2: Back In Business		
Star World		Third Watch		Miami Vice		Philly		Less Than Perfect	The Drew Carey Show	Life As We Know It		TNA Xplosion		World's Most Amazing Videos		Enterprise		Haunted Houses Road Trip	
Studio 23								Sports TV	Survivor Panama Exile Island		7th Heaven (7:20 PM)	The Bachelorette			Studio 23 Presents				

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INQUIRER Visayas
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Cost-saving thru geothermal power

By Vicente S. Labro
Kananga, Leyte

VOLCANOES ARE SIGHTS TO behold when they are calm.

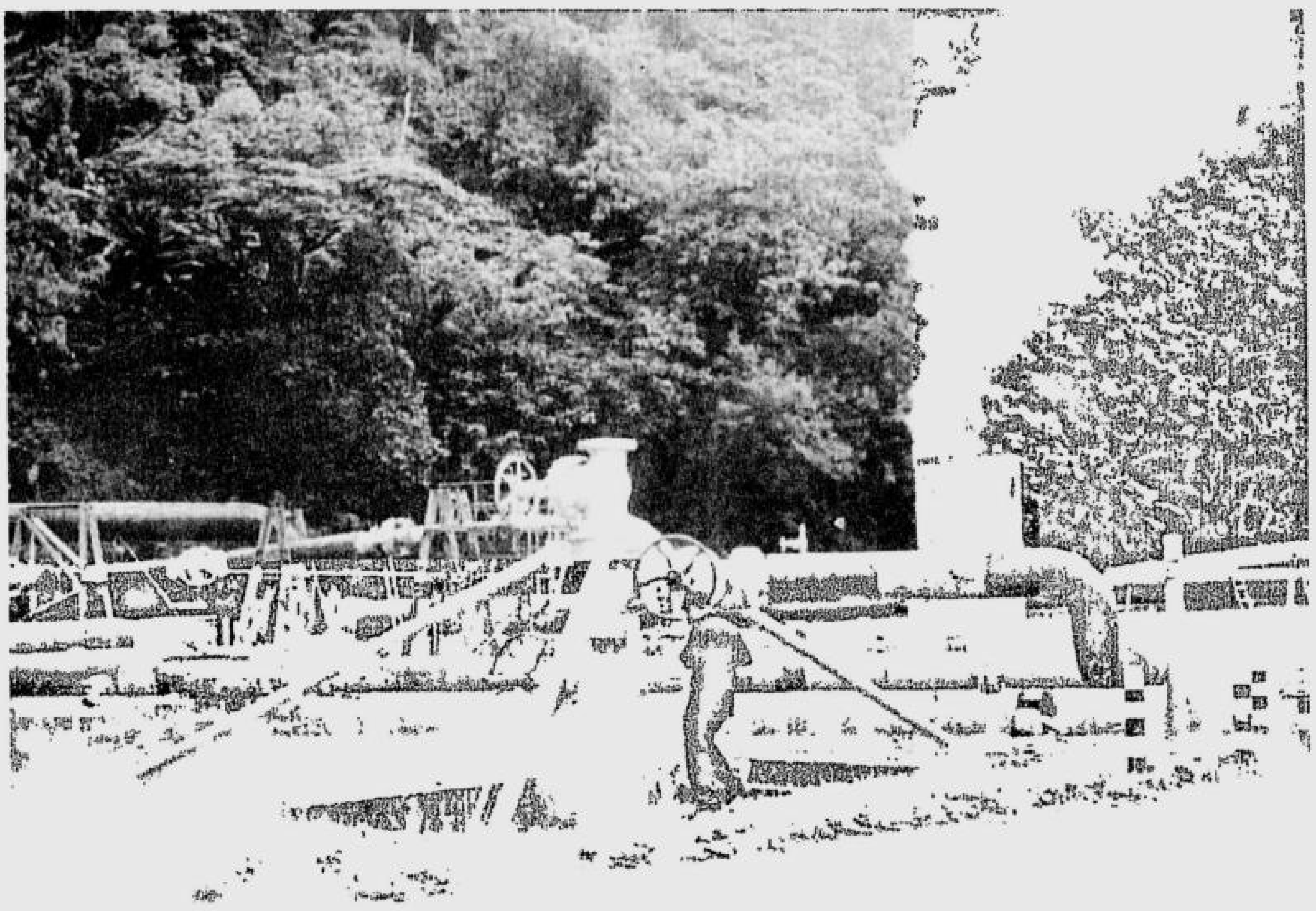
But while these vents of the earth's heat blast gas and ash into the air or spew out lava, the subterranean heat that causes these volcanic upheavals has provided the country with geothermal energy used to produce electricity.

For several decades now, the country has relied on geothermal energy to stave off power crisis. And for the past 30 years, the state-run Philippine National Oil Co.-Energy Development Corp. (PNOC-EDC) has been in the forefront of the exploration and development of indigenous energy, especially geothermal energy, throughout the country.

Since 1976, PNOC-EDC has installed plants capable of producing nearly 2,000 megawatts of geothermal power. Geothermal energy now supplies 19 percent of the country's electricity, and 62.6 percent of this comes from PNOC-EDC's nine geothermal steam fields on the islands of Luzon, Leyte, Negros and Mindanao.

The energy company also boasts of having pioneered the re-injection technology and directional drilling, as well as for having improved the quality of the steam, perfected the wet steam technology, and mastered reservoir management, among others.

According to PNOC-EDC, drilling for geothermal energy in the Philippines is from one to three kilometers deep.



GEOTHERMAL steam comes out of a pipeline at the Upper Mahiao area in the PNOC-EDC's Leyte Geothermal Production Field in Kananga, Leyte. The plant is located in Barangay Lim-ao, Kananga town. *(Photo at right)*
PHOTOS BY VEN LABRO

World's largest field

With Leyte lying parallel to the Philippine Trench, it is no wonder that there are around 30 volcanoes, all of them inactive, in the provinces of Leyte and Southern Leyte, which comprise Leyte Island, and in the nearby island-province of Biliran.

In fact, the country's and the world's largest wet steam field is PNOC-EDC's Leyte Geothermal Production Field (LGPF), which straddles the boundary of Kananga town and Ormoc City.

LGPF supplies power not only to Eastern Visayas but also to Luzon and the key islands of the Visayas, particularly Cebu, via submarine cables.

Aside from the Leyte fields, PNOC-EDC had also installed geothermal steam fields in Luzon (BacMan I, BacMan II and Manito) with a total installed capacity of 165 MW, in Palinpinon, Negros Oriental (Palinpinon I and II) with 192.5 MW, and Mt. Apo in Mindanao (Mindanao I and I) with 106 MW.

The Philippine Geothermal Inc. (PGI), a wholly owned subsidiary of Union Oil of California, has also developed the MakBan (426 MW) and Tiwi (330 MW) steam fields, both in Luzon.

PNOC-EDC and PGI are involved in developing geothermal fields in the Philippines, according to the Department of Energy website.

At present, the Philippines ranks a close second to the United States in the list of top geothermal energy producers in the world, with Italy placing third.

In the next few years, the country might snatch the top place from the US as more geothermal sites are explored by PNOC-EDC. Only about 500 MW separates the country from the US in terms of geothermal energy production.

The energy firm's priority in the next four years is the exploration and development of the geothermal field in Mt. Cabalian in San Juan, Southern Leyte, according to Paul Aquino, chief executive officer and president of PNOC-EDC.

This will be followed by the optimization projects in Palinpinon, including Dauin, also in Negros Oriental; and the Mindanao project. The aim is to produce an additional 350 MW, he said.

Aquino, together with other government energy officials, was at the LGPF compound on June 26 to attend the turnover of the Upper Mahiao power plant from the California Energy (CalEn) to PNOC-EDC. CalEn constructed the power plant in 1996 under a 10-year build-operate-transfer scheme.

The Upper Mahiao plant, located at Barangay Lim-ao in Kanaga town, is the largest geothermal power plant in the world that uses the geothermal combined cycle units (GCCU) technology in a single powerhouse.

With power crisis again looming in the country, geothermal energy and other indigenous energy sources are again placed on the limelight, like what happened in the 1970s, the 1990s and today.

The energy crisis in the early 1970s resulted in the commissioning of the 3-MW pilot plant in Tongonan, Leyte, which was owned by the National Power Corp. It was considered the first commercial geothermal power generation in the country, supplying electricity to Ormoc City starting in 1980.

A rapid build-up of the country's geothermal generating capacity was also undertaken in the late 1970s and early 1980s. On July 2, 1983, the 112.5 MW Tongonan 1 power plant in Leyte was commissioned. Also commissioned that year was another 112.5 MW plant in Palinpinon.

In the 1990s, in the wake of an impending energy crisis in Luzon including Metro Manila, the PNOC-EDC entered into a BOT contract with private firms for the funding, construction and operation for 10 years of Upper Mahiao power plant, Mahanagdong A and B power plants and the Malitbog power plant.

The Malitbog power plant, PNOC-EDC reported, is the world's single largest power station.

At present, the spiraling price of fossil fuel moved the country to search for cheap and reliable power sources, among them geothermal energy, before there could be a power crisis.

The country actually needs more power sources to meet the growing demand for electricity, which grows at an average annual rate of 7.2 percent. At present, the country has only 1,931 MW of geothermal energy installed out of 2,047 MW proven reserves and 4,790 potential reserves, according to the DOE.

Geothermal energy is a renewable, clean, cheap, reliable and sustainable source of energy. It is renewable because geothermal water is injected back into the depth of the earth, clean because it does not burn fuels to generate steam, reliable because geothermal power plants can run 24/7, and sustainable because the future generations can still use this natural resource.

The use of geothermal energy for the production of electricity would likewise help the country conserve its dollar reserves. PNOC-EDC reported that in 2005 alone, actual geothermal steam and electricity production had reached 7,078.2 gigawatt-hours, which translated to a net savings of 11.8 million barrels of fuel oil equivalent, "or an estimated $579.6 million savings in foreign exchange costs for the Philippines (that year)."

Geothermal energy also has non-power uses that firms and businessmen can invest into. According to the DOE, geothermal energy not utilized for power generation could be used in salt making, drying, hatchery, alcohol distillation and fish processing.

Fast facts

THE LEYTE Geothermal Production Field (LGPF), which now has a generating capacity of 708 MW, has 83 wells, 31 separators and 186 kilometers of geothermal pipes.

The 107,625-hectare LGPF houses the 132-MW Upper Mahiao power plant, which started commercial operation in 1996, the 232.5-MW Malitbog power plant (1997), and the 180 MW Mahanagdong A and B power plants (1997) as well as 3-MW pilot plant in Tongonan (1977) and the 112.5-MW Tongonan 1 power plant (1983).

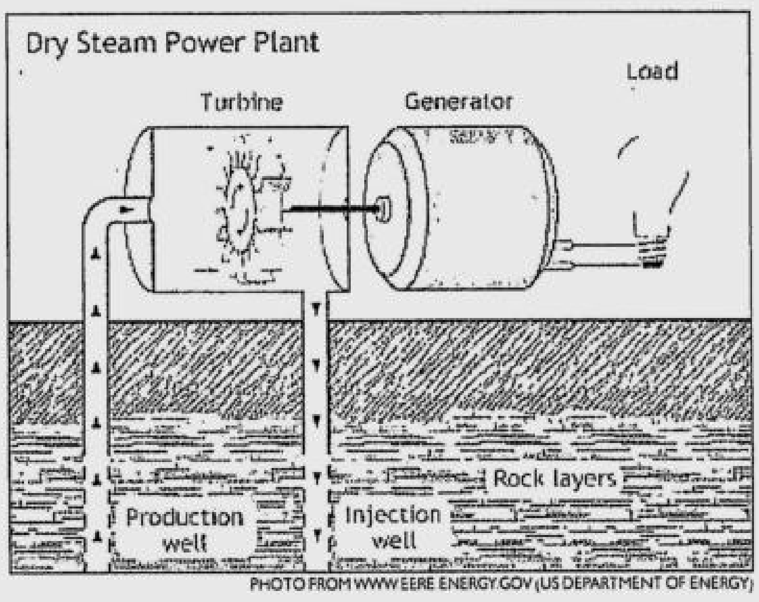


PHOTO FROM WWW.EERE.ENERGY.GOV (US DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY)

IN THE KNOW

How geothermal energy is turned into electricity

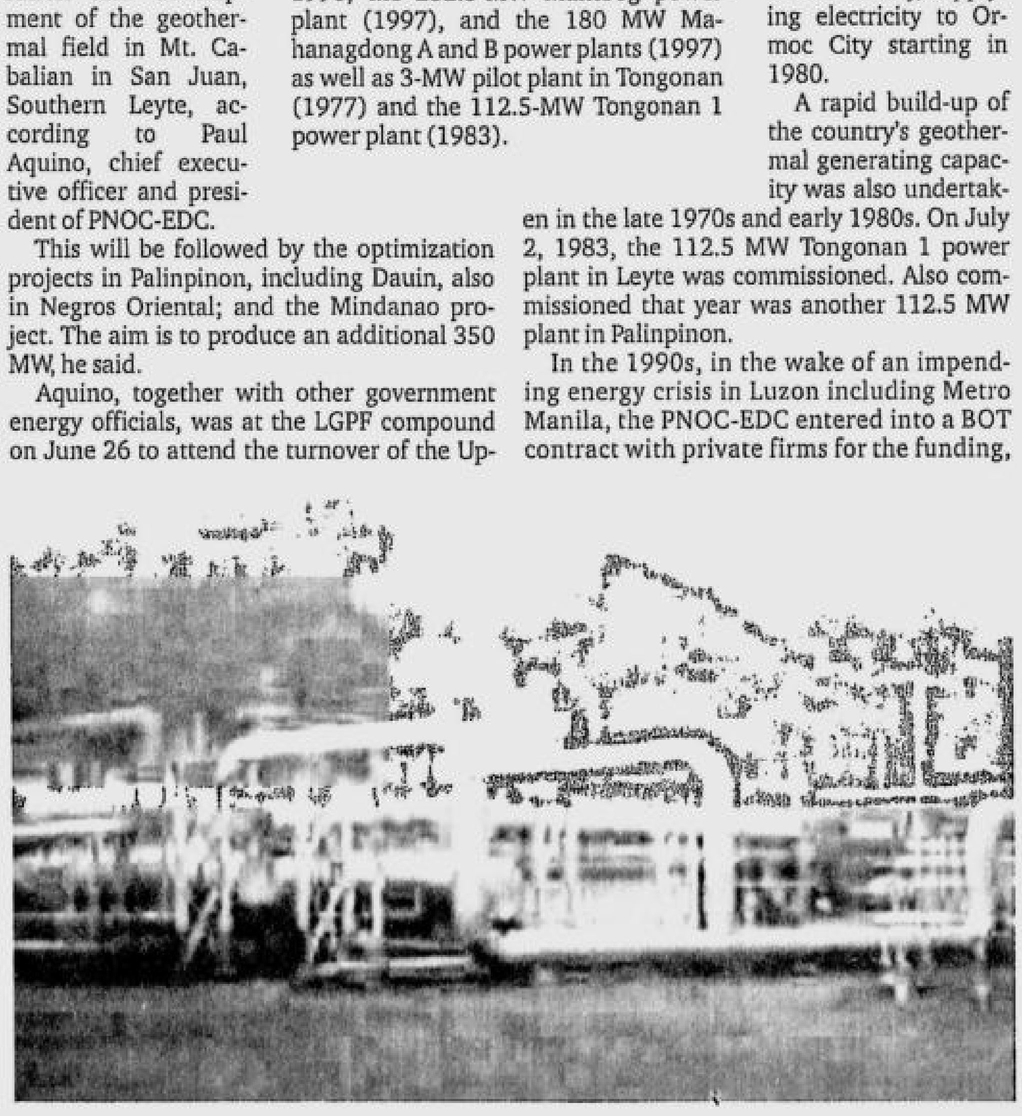
GEOTHERMAL energy is created when magma in the bowels of the earth heat up nearby rocks and underground water, producing geothermal hot water in the process.

Some of this hot water goes up through cracks or faults and reaches the earth's surface such as hot springs or geysers. Most of the hot water, however, is trapped beneath the earth. This natural collection of hot water below the earth's surface is called geothermal reservoir.

From this reservoir and with the use of pipelines, power plants could draw off steam or hot water that will provide the force to spin their turbines generators to produce electricity. The used geothermal water is then injected back deep into the earth, to maintain the pressure and sustain the reservoir.

Drilling for geothermal energy in the Philippines is from one to three kilometer-deep.

Sources: Department of Energy, Philippine National Oil Co.-Energy Development Corp.



THE UPPER Mahiao power plant at the Leyte Geothermal Production field was recently turned over to the PNOC-EDC by California Energy when the BOT contract expired on June 25.

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Miriam says ECC used for extortion

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

SEN. MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO YESTERDAY sought an investigation of what she said was the use for extortion of environmental compliance certificates (ECCs) by officials of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in the wake of a takeover by the government of port operations at Poro Point.

Santiago, in a resolution seeking the investigation, said the takeover was an "arbitrary act" of the DENR Environmental Management Bureau which suddenly demanded an ECC from the Poro Point Industrial Corp. (PPIC), the port's private operator.

But Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) president Narciso Abaya, who went to the INQUIRER office yesterday, said the environmental issue cropped up when an investigating team formed by Mayor Maryjane Ortega, of San Fernando City, La Union, discovered that the PPIC, the port operator, had no ECC.

"For a long time, I have heard unsubstantiated reports that DENR officials in the field are using the ECC requirement as a means of extortion, either by delaying the release of the ECC until the private firm pays a bribe or by granting ECCs despite the disqualification of the applicants in exchange for bribes by private firms," Santiago said.

Santiago has asked the Senate environment committee to summon top officials of the DENR, the Philippine National Police, BCDA and other officials who were involved in what she described as the "military style" takeover of the seaport at Poro Point.

Santiago, in an interview, said she wants the officials to explain the alleged use of violence by armed police and Coast Guard personnel in shutting down and taking over the operations of a private firm which had a 25-year contract to operate the port in San Fernando, La Union.

Abaya said the armed men during the takeover were members of the PNP.

Santiago, who filed a resolution seeking the inquiry, asked Sen. Pia Cayetano, chair of the Senate environment committee, to start the hearing early next month.

She said that in a Malacañang meeting last January, President Macapagal-Arroyo was exasperated when DENR and BCDA officials insisted that no violence attended the takeover despite photos and video footage showing there was a military-style takeover.

Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, a close ally of Ms Arroyo, has been implicated in the controversy but he denied a hand in the takeover. He welcomed the Senate inquiry as an opportunity to clear up the mess and his name.

The port continues to suffer as the BCDA asked the Court of Appeals to stop a judge from further acting on at least two civil cases involving the takeover.

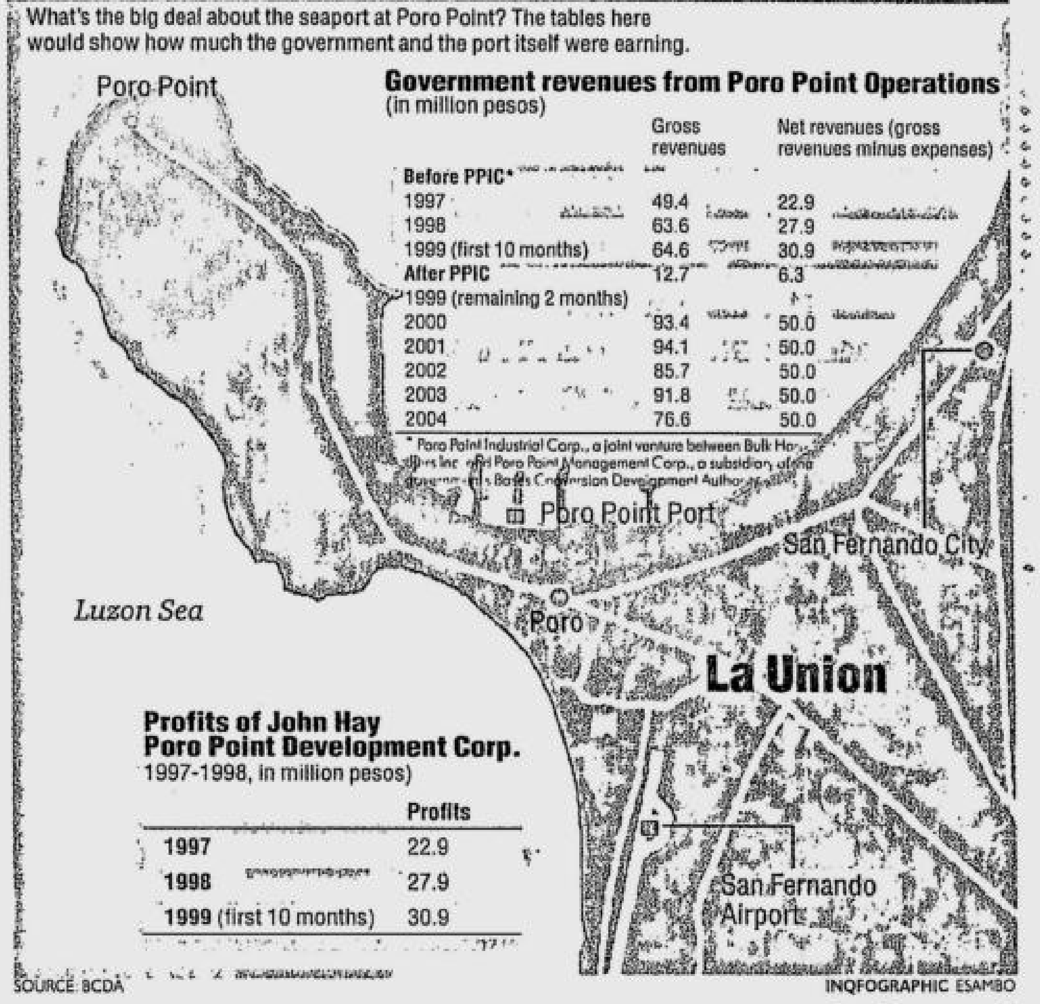
The BCDA was joined by its subsidiary, the Poro Point Management Corp. (PPMC), and the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA), in the filing of a petition to stop Judge Robert Cawed, of the San Fernando City Regional Trial Court, from acting on the cases.

The petition also covered RTC Executive Judge Victor Viloria, Bulk Handlers Inc. (BHI), Poro Point Integrated Services Inc. and PPIC.

Speaking on behalf of the petitioners, the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel said in a statement that Cawed has "no jurisdiction" on the cases since these were about an "intra-corporate dispute" between the BCDA and PPIC. *With a report from Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon Desk*

PORT OF DISCONTENT

What's the big deal about the seaport at Poro Point? The tables here would show how much the government and the port itself were earning.



Government revenues from Poro Point Operations
(in million pesos)

	Gross revenues	Net revenues (gross revenues minus expenses)
Before PPIC*		
1997	49.4	22.9
1998	63.6	27.9
1999 (first 10 months)	64.6	30.9
After PPIC	12.7	6.3
1999 (remaining 2 months)		
2000	93.4	50.0
2001	94.1	50.0
2002	85.7	50.0
2003	91.8	50.0
2004	76.6	50.0

* Poro Point Industrial Corp., a joint venture between Bulk Handlers Inc. and Poro Point Management Corp., a subsidiary of the government's Bases Conversion Development Authority

Profits of John Hay Poro Point Development Corp.
1997-1998, in million pesos)

	Profits
1997	22.9
1998	27.9
1999 (first 10 months)	30.9

SOURCE: BCDA

INQFOGRAPHIC ESAMBO

Mindanao Islamic leaders issue fatwa over genetic engineered food

COTABATO CITY—LEADING ISlamic religious leaders of Mindanao have ruled that genetically engineered food "should be discouraged" and that a labeling law on such products had to be passed by Congress.

The Halal Board of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao hardly had a conclusive fatwa (opinion) on whether or not processed foods containing bio-engineered ingredients are allowed for Muslims, but said its long-term effect on consumers' health had to be established by the science community.

"Halal" is the term used in the Koran and in Islamic sharia (court) to mean permissibility of food for human consumption on the basis of certain sanitary and health standards, as well as legality, including pro-animal practices and moderation in food preparation and legitimacy of sources.

"A moratorium on the genetically modified organisms may have to be pushed while consumption of genetically-engineered food should be discouraged," the four-page fatwa read.

The 15-member Muslim Mindanao Halal Certification Board of muftis (religious leaders) and secular experts representing the five provinces and one city of the ARMM had met with food technologists, doctors of veterinary medicines and plant engineers in dialogues held by the region's Department of Trade and Industry and the Local Government Support Program (LGSP) of the Canada International Development Agency (Cida).

The fatwa further stated: "Acknowledging that genetically engineered foods are believed to be in the market and are found in a number of snack foods and sauces, the board supports the move to providing a labeling law on genetically engineered foods, as espoused by concerned groups and communities worldwide, and as a matter of informed choice to consumers."

The opinion said genetically engineered foods "may not be haram (forbidden), but (it) is best to avoid them. The introduction of animal genes into food plants presents considerable ethical difficulties for Muslims and from religious standpoint."

The muftis said one basis of the fatwa is the Hadith, as the written tradition of the Prophet Muhammad is called, in which he said: "The merit of utilization is in the benefit it yields and in proportion to harm it may cause."

The application, they said, of the Prophet's words was just timely as "the mounting concern on (bio-engineered foods') possible effect to human health and environment, alongside the divided views of scientific community in the so-called technological breakthrough..." *Nash B. Maulana, Inquirer Mindanao*

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Number of families fleeing Army reign in Central Luzon swelling

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The "martial law" that has reigned in Central Luzon since June has given rise to "internal refugees," or families fleeing from the intensified anti-insurgency operations of the military.

More than 75 families have been displaced by military operations and they have sought sanctuary at the Domus Dei (God's Dwelling Place) in Bulacan, according to Carmen Deunida, president of the Kalipunan ng Damayang Mahihirap (Kadamay).

"Their numbers are swelling because of the martial law imposed by (Maj. Gen. Jovito) Palparan in Central Luzon," Deunida said in a statement here on Friday.

The United Nations defines "internal refugees" as people displaced by conflicts in their areas.

Deunida said Bonifacio Asis, Kadamay chair in Bulacan, has been sheltered at the center after four men forcibly entered his house on Aug. 12 in an attempt to kill him. Asis led protests against the demolition of houses along the right-of-way of the government's NorthRail project.

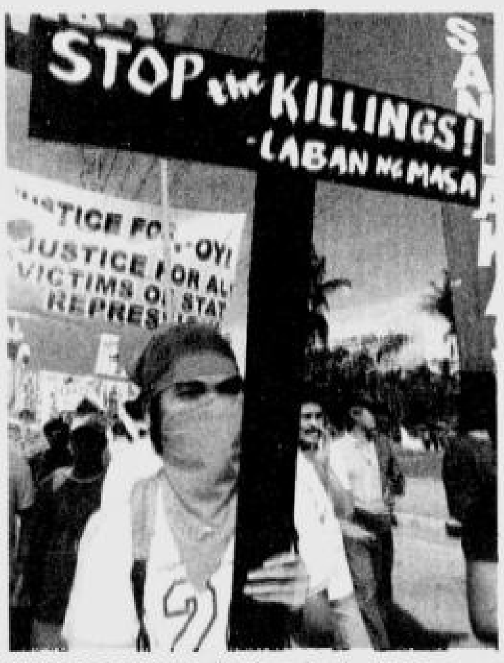
Deunida said Church leaders in Bulacan established the center in July in the hope of protecting the lives of political activists and civilians being hunted by soldiers.

They include Kadamay leaders and organizers in San Jose del Monte City whom soldiers have demanded to see on July 31.

An officer from the Army's 56th Infantry Battalion furnished the village leaders in Barangay Sapang Palay a list of Kadamay leaders and members who "need to clear their names with the military" on suspicion they were supporters of the New People's Army, she said.

The soldiers, according to Deunida, imposed a one-week deadline on Kadamay members to "clear" themselves. About 20 people on the list decided to hide instead, taking their families with them.

Soldiers have also pursued six Kadamay members at the Pabahay 2000 in Barangay Muñoz, instructing them to see Palparan on Aug. 4, she said. They left the village and found refuge at the center instead.


STOP the KILLINGS!
-LABAN NG MASA
JUSTICE FOR ALL VICTIMS OF STATE REPRESSION

THE CROSS is getting heavier for leftists who are feeling the pinch of a military campaign to force communist guerrillas out of communities that are suspected of harboring them. INQUIRER PHOTO

Lt. Col. Noel Clement, commander of the 56th IB, has confirmed that some "leftist personalities" were being sought for interviews "only to clarify the suspicions about them."

No one from Kadamay is on his unit's order of battle, he said.

But Kadamay leaders have gone to San Jose del Monte Mayor Angelito Sarmiento to report the incidents and sought protection.

Deunida denounced Palparan for going after Kadamay leaders and members, who, she said, do not want anything but decent housing and government's help.

"Why won't the general go after the NPA?" she asked.

In Zambales, soldiers in Masinloc town have posted the photographs of local residents, mostly farmers and fishermen, suspected to be communist rebels or supporters, according to Ver Tawatao, a leader of the Pambansang Katipunan ng Makabayang Magbubukid (PKMM) there.

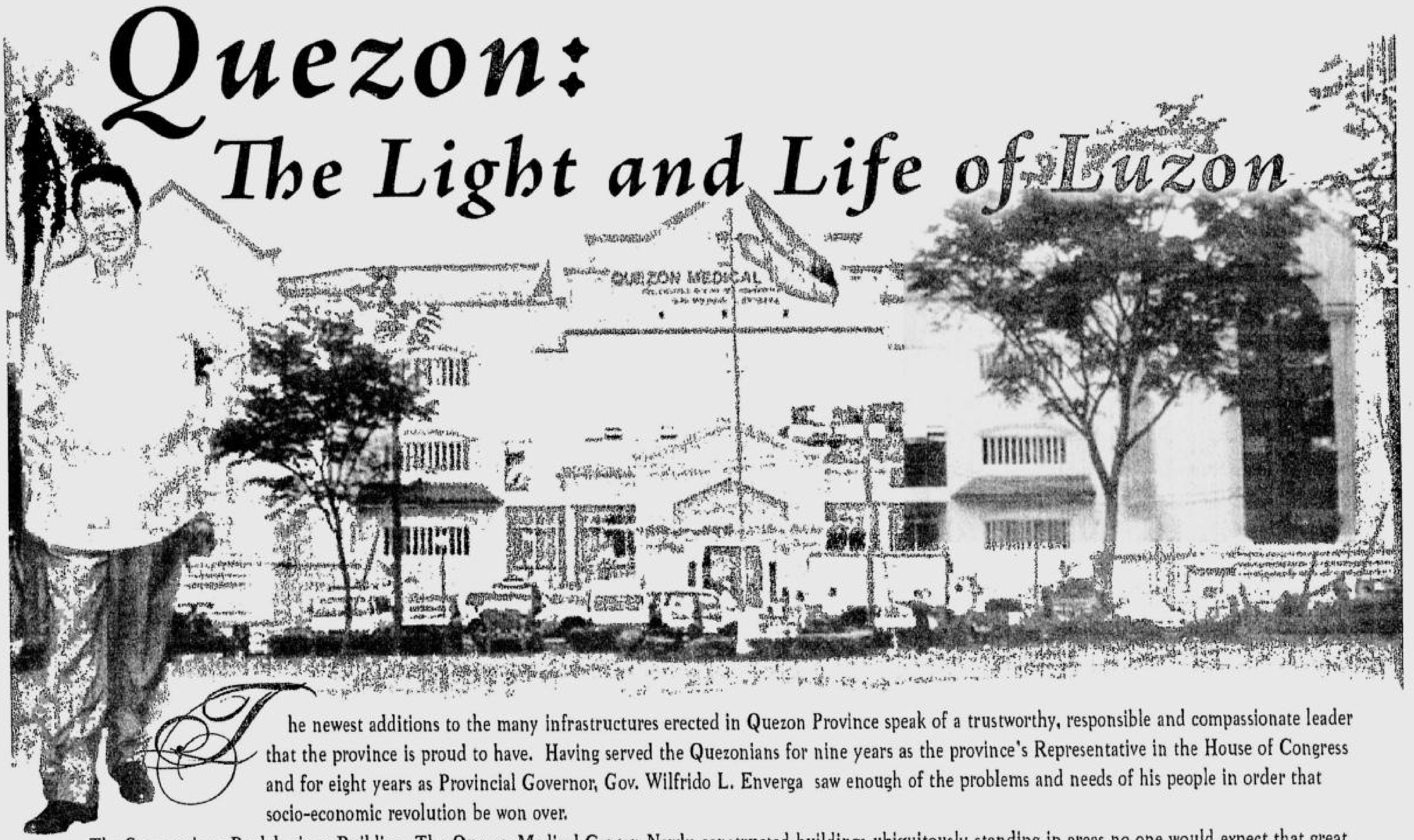
Tawatao said the photographs were seen in at least three detachments of the 24th IB in the town, especially in Barangay Sta. Rita where government troops and NPA rebels clashed in July.

The clash prompted at least 76 families to flee the fighting.

Tawatao said soldiers conduct house searches. The head of the families or the eldest sons are required to report to the detachments to "clear" themselves of links with the rebels.

About 200 leaders and members of PKMM, Kilusan para as Pambansang Demokrasya (KPD) and Progresibong Alyansa ng Mangingisda sa Pilipinas (Pangisda) marched through Palauig and Masinloc towns on Friday to protest reports of alleged military abuses and the identification system imposed by soldiers in their towns. *Tonette Orejas, Allan Macatuno and Cesar Villa, Inquirer Central Luzon Desk*

Quezon: The Light and Life of Luzon



The newest additions to the many infrastructures erected in Quezon Province speak of a trustworthy, responsible and compassionate leader that the province is proud to have. Having served the Quezonians for nine years as the province's Representative in the House of Congress and for eight years as Provincial Governor, Gov. Wilfrido L. Enverga saw enough of the problems and needs of his people in order that socio-economic revolution be won over.

The Sangguniang Panlalawigan Building. The Quezon Medical Center. Newly constructed buildings ubiquitously standing in areas no one would expect that great edifices would rise. With distinctive architectural designs, both are defining markers in Lucena City, the province capital. With integrity of intent for their construction, both are now legacies of effective legislation and genuine concern for the masses.

"In this new Sangguniang Panlalawigan Building more legislative agenda for the betterment of our people are expected to be passed. Our Quezon Medical Center (QMed) too, the most beautiful provincial hospital in the country, will benefit the health needs of the majority of our people. He added that " my people's welfare propels me to be innovative, pursue developmental goals and promote excellence in my every undertakings".

Although confronted with budgetary constraint to bring about and sustain an ideal health program for the indigent patients of the province, the governor is positive that QMed will be able to deliver improved health services. Geared as an economic enterprise, for sure it will be able to transcend all barriers so that the sick be healed and this province be upheld.

Quezon
Medalya
ng
Karangalan

The department heads of the Provincial Government of Quezon together with Governor Enverga, Senate President Manuel Villar, Mrs. Grace Enverga, Mark Enverga and Bishop Emilio Z. Marquez on last year's Quezon Medalya ng Karangalan

Gov. Wilfrido L. Enverga with the members of the provincial board. (Left to right) SP Sec. Francis Xavier Sia, BM Lourdes C. de Luna, VG David C. Suarez, Gov. Willie Enverga, BM Diana Abigail Diestro, BM Gerald Ortiz. (Standing L to R) BM Isaias Ubana II, BM Narciso Malite, BM Eladio Pasamba, BM Roderick T. Magbuhos, BM Carlos Portes, BM James Rey Bico, BM Romulo Edano Jr., BM Tranquilino Tan and BM Vicente Alcala (not in photo) BM Liza Alvarez.

Trade & Investments

Quezon Province, a gateway to the South of our nation. And named in honor of the late President Manuel L. Quezon. It has a 4 district consisting of 40 municipalities and one city with Lucena City as capital. It has the second largest land area in Southern Tagalog and is the sixth largest province in the Philippines.

The province plays a vital role as a new axis of growth in the fast developing economy of the Southern Tagalog. The province is well endowed with productive agricultural land that allows the province to lead in coconut production, as well crops like rice, corn, root crops, bananas, mangoes and vegetables, thus getting to be known as food basket of the region. It has the the highest coconut production in the region with 945,951 metric tons per year.

There are three fishing regions of Quezon- the Northeast of the 1st District, Southeast of the 4th District and at the South Central West are 2nd and 3rd Districts. Coastal and marine resources are classified into mangroves, sea grasses, coral reefs, municipal fisheries and commercial fisheries.

There are rich deposits of limestone in the mountain of Pagbilao, Atimonan and Tayabas and current explorations are focused on possible oil reserved under the Ragay Gulf and Tayabas Bay. Small scale gold mines can also be found in the municipality of Buenavista.

KAPIHAN SA QUEZON!

The coffee production and marketing project of Quezon started as a joint undertaking of DTI-Quezon and DAR-Quezon 2. It is the result of the Investment and Marketing Encounter for Agrarian Reform communities conducted on October 30, 1998 in Gumaca, Quezon where the agrarian reform beneficiaries met with Nestle' Philippines' assistant vice-president for agriculture, Mr. David T. Santos.

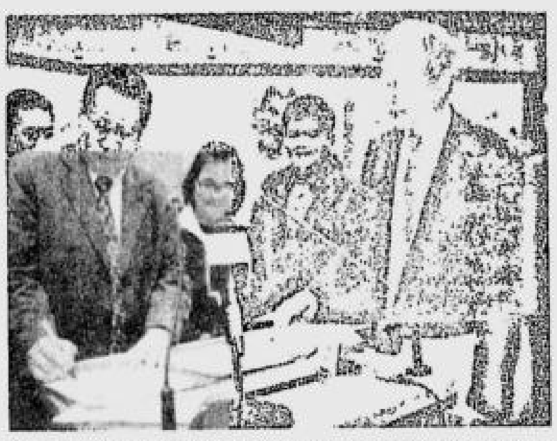
After several trainings, a marketing memorandum of agreement was signed between and among Nestle, Phils., DAR-Quezon 2, DTI-Quezon and the ARC coffee growers on March 12, 1999. It was introduced to Gov. Wilfrido L. Enverga who later made it provincial project to assist more farmers. Along with the Provincial Government, the PCA, DAR, Quezon Mayor's League, Southern Luzon Polythecnic College (SLPC) and Quezon National Agricultural School (QNAS) were invited to be a part of the project.

The Coffee project, now known as KAPIHAN SA QUEZON, was launced as a provincial project on August 5, 1999 at the Quezon National School, Malicboy, Quezon, the site of the clonal garden and nursery. It is aimed at making coffee as one of the high value-crops of the province thru the Nestle' way.

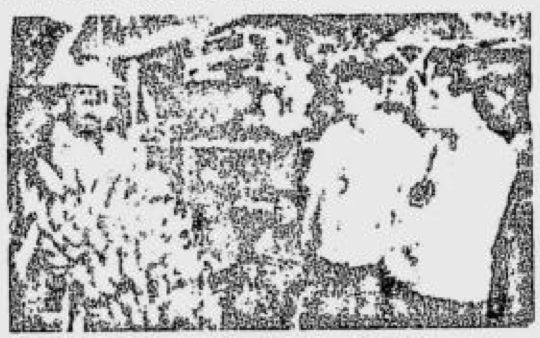
Thus tested Nestle coffee technology, farmers are expected to gain more from coffee production. Training for farmers are conducted at farm site as facilitated by the agronomist from Nestle on a step-by-step basis. With regular monitoring, the farmers are advised on all aspects of coffee production from nursery establishment to post-harvesting.

With the Kapihan sa Quezon project, coffee is expected to be one of the high value crops in the province.

Quezon will be known as a major producer of coffee beans in the near future.

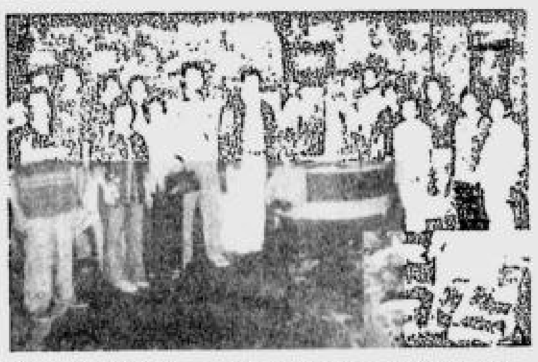


Butte County and Quezon Formalize a twinning relationship. Quezon Provincial Governor Wilfrido Enverga, left, Mrs. Evelyn S. Abeja, BM James Rey Bico is accompanied by his contingent and Supervisor Curt Josiassen, center, and District Attorney Mike Ramsey, as he signs the Province Partnership.



Gov. Enverga visits the Kalilayan Trade Fair.

Corn harvested during the season.



Gov. Wilfrido L.Enverga poses with local officials of the province and representatives from DTI, DAR, PCA, SLPC and QNAS during the launching of Kapihan Sa Quezon, a coffee project by the provincial government.

Quezon Provincial Hall

Bishops' threat fails to shake pro-GMA solons

By Michael Lim Ubac

ADMINISTRATION LEGISLATORS are not shaken by the warning from Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Vidal and Bishop Dogracias Yñiguez that the junking of the impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo could spark civil disobedience.

"We've heard this before and nothing came of it then. We expect the same thing to happen this time around, that is, nothing," said Rep. Monico Puentevella.

The Bacolod congressman warned "revered and responsible Church leaders" against being used in "partisan politics merely by politicians hungry to regain power following former President Estrada's ouster in 2001 on graft and plunder charges."

Leyte Rep. Eduardo Veloso said Vidal and Iñiguez should ignore threats of civil disobedience and instead "enlighten Filipinos towards peace, unity, and reconciliation."

"In fact, the more discerning question [is] why some Church leaders are instigating the people to disobey the government and working for partisan politics instead of strengthening our spirituality and moral fiber," he said.

Puentevella said civil disobedience threats would fail because Filipinos were becoming more mature politically and wanted the nation to move on.

"The citizens can now see behind the machinations of the puppeteer-politicians who have used cause-oriented and leftist groups in their anti-administration efforts," he said.

"People want jobs, more opportunities for education and prosperity. They want a faster economic recovery. Let's listen to them and prioritize productive legislation for their sake," Puentevella added.

Veloso said members of the House justice committee should not be faulted for dismissing the impeachment complaint last Wednesday for insufficiency of evidence.

MAYON SERENADE

Teenagers from a village near the slopes of the rumbling Mayon Volcano while away the time singing and playing the guitar at the evacuation center in Gogon Central School. The displaced residents have been staying at the school for more than a week now. More than 9,300 families, or about 44,000 persons, have been evacuated from 31 barangays near the restive volcano, National Disaster Control Center figures dated Aug. 16 showed.

REM ZAMORA

Querubin joins 11 other Marines in Fort Bonifacio detention center

By Dona Pazzibugan

MARINE COL. ARIEL QUERUBIN, ONE OF the principal accused in the Feb. 24 coup plot, has been placed under restriction in a Navy staff house in Fort Bonifacio.

Querubin was brought to the staff house, located at the Bonifacio Naval Station compound, last Thursday, where he joined 11 other Marine officers similarly linked to the coup plot who were brought there last Aug. 7.

Navy Spokesperson Giovanni Bacordo said the order for Querubin's transfer came from the Navy Flag Officer in Command, Vice Admiral Mateo Mayuga.

Former Marine commandant Maj. Gen. Renato Miranda, who was also implicated in the plot, remains "under house arrest" in his quarters in Camp Aguinaldo.

A plan to transfer Miranda to the BNS staff house is still under study, said Bacordo. He noted that the staff house was "too small" to hold 12 officers, including one female junior officer.

Bacordo described the "custodial center" as measuring about 50 sq. m., with four bedrooms with double-deck beds and a common room.

Eight military police guards have been assigned to guard the staff house round the clock.

But the restricted officers are free to leave the staff house and go around the BNS compound, said Bacordo.

If they want to leave the compound, however, they have to get permission from the camp commander, Navy Capt. Oliver Cuevas.

The situation of the Marine officers implicated in the coup plot is somewhat different from that of their Army colleagues. Before Aug. 7, the Marine officers were not under any kind of restriction.

By contrast, Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, the dismissed Scout Ranger Regiment commander, and 18 Scout Ranger officers linked to the plot have been detained in a maximum security facility in Camp Capinpin in Tanay, Rizal since July.

However, six other Army officers similarly undergoing investigation for attempted mutiny have not been detained.

According to Bacordo, Mayuga decided on placing the accused Marine officers under restriction at the BNP because the officers have so far kept their word that they would attend the pre-trial hearings.

"They have given their word to [Mayuga] that they will cooperate, that they will not escape," Bacordo said.

A plan to detain the group in Fort San Felipe in Sangley Point, Cavite, has been put on hold.

"It could be an option if there's a need to increase their security. If the security situation calls for it, they will be transferred there," Bacordo said.

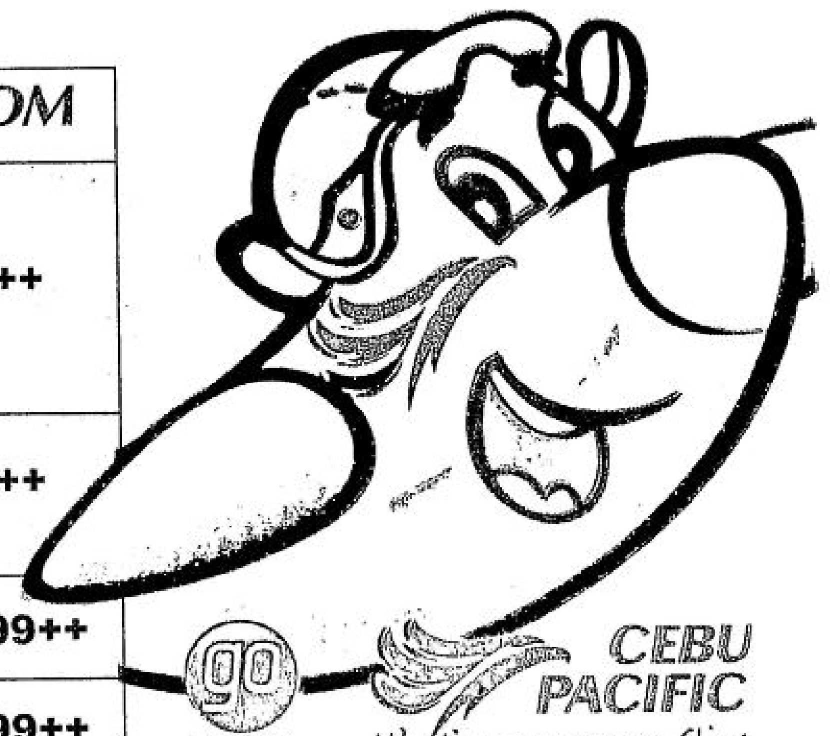
The other Marine officers under investigation are Col. Orlando de Leon; Col. Januario Caringal; Lt. Col. Achilles Segumalian, ex-commander of the 2nd Marine Battalion; Lt. Col. Martin Villasan; Lt. Col. Reynaldo Ocsan; Lt. Col. Armando Banez, former deputy commandant for plans and programs;

Lt. Col. Val Hizon; Lt. Col. Custodio Parcon, former deputy commandant for operations; Lt. Col. Romulo Gualdrapa; Maj. Domingo Fernandez; and Lt. Belinda Ferrer, former aide de camp of the commandant.

The accused officers submitted their counter-affidavits last Aug. 14 to investigators of the Judge Advocate General's Office (Jago), answering charges of attempting to begin a mutiny (Article of War 67) and conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman (Article of War 96).

Miranda, Lim and the rest of the Scout Ranger officers are expected to submit their counter-affidavits on Aug. 24.

The three-person Jago panel of investigators led by Deputy Judge Advocate General Col. Al Perreras will determine whether there is probable cause to convene a general court-martial.



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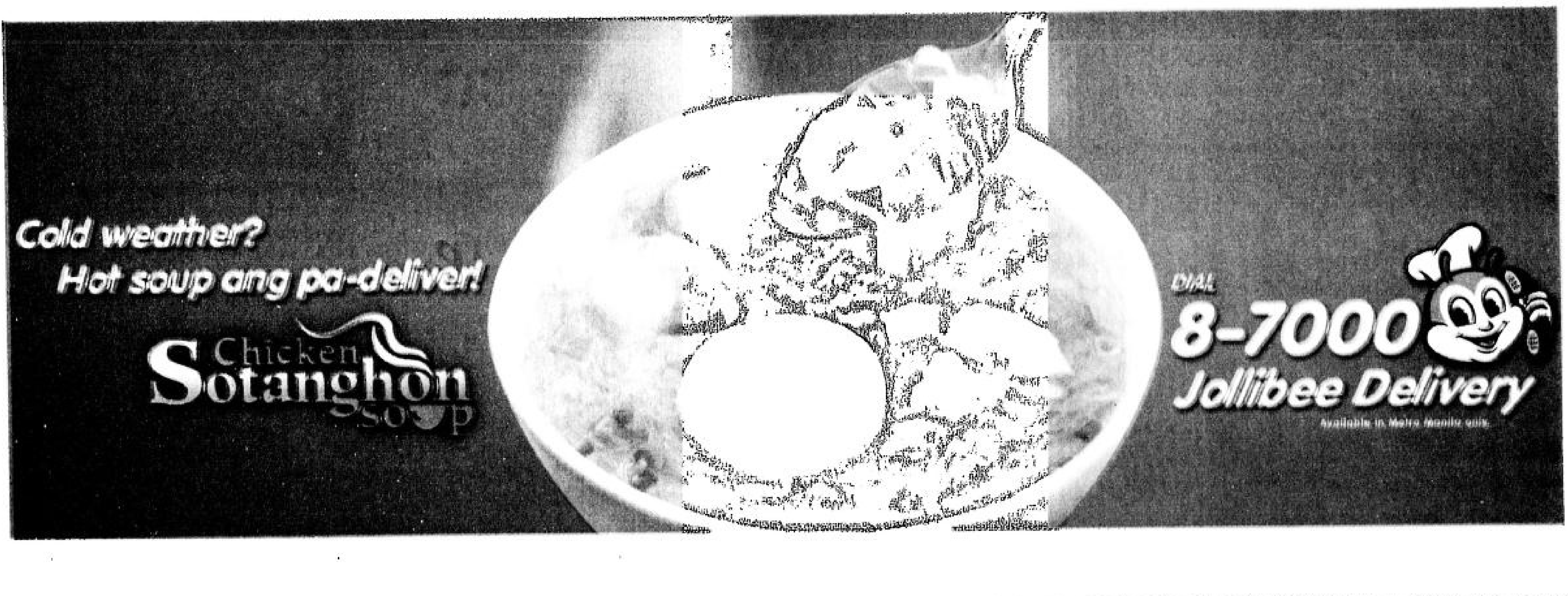

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WHAT'S INSIDE

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166 suspected food poison victims rushed to hospital

Pains experienced after attending Antipolo fête

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

AT LEAST 166 PERSONS IN A REMOTE mountain barangay in Antipolo City fell ill after attending the inauguration of a new barangay hall on Wednesday.

The people complained of vomiting, abdominal pains and diarrhea hours after the event.

Most of the victims are already recovering while 26 persons were still at the Antipolo City District Hospital as of yesterday afternoon, city health officer Ma. Gracia Alcantara told the INQUIRER. Twenty more were still being fed intravenously at the Barangay Calawis Hall.

The rest were sent home after being given oral rehydration salts by barangay and health officials.

The city health office could not yet determine whether it was a case of food poisoning since more than 300 residents attended the inauguration of the new hall. Of the 166 victims, 26 were below five years old, Alcantara said.

Lunch was served during the inauguration, officials said. Some of those who attended later complained of abdominal pains in the evening. Barangay officials started to worry when more residents started vomiting and having diarrhea. They were diagnosed with "acute gastroenteritis," Alcantara said.

Barangay officials reported the incident to City Hall and health personnel and other employees went to the remote barangay, which could not be reached by land line or mobile phone, to distribute oral dehydration salts to the residents, Alcantara said.

A PASSENGER jeepney lies on its side after its driver lost control of the wheel as the vehicle was traveling along Sumulong Highway in Antipolo. RAFFY LERMA

Five hurt in jeepney accident

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

FIVE PEOPLE WERE HURT YESTERDAY morning when a passenger jeep skidded on Sumulong Highway in Barangay Sta. Cruz, Antipolo City, and fell into a shallow canal, according to Rizal Provincial Police director Sr. Supt. Freddie Panen.

The two women and three men who were slightly injured were brought to the Antipolo Community Hospital where they were treated for gashes.

It was the second such incident this month in the same barangay involving a passenger jeepney. Following the incident, police reminded jeepney drivers in the city to make sure their vehicles were in good working condition before negotiating sloping streets.

Driver Rodel Pineda, 30, allegedly lost control of his vehicle carrying some 22 passengers. The jeepney was headed for Cubao, Quezon City, at about 8 a.m. when the accident occurred.

Although the driver stepped on the brakes, the jeepney did not stop and skidded to the right side, falling into a shallow canal, city police chief Supt. Primitivo Tabujara said.

The Antipolo police had been meeting with drivers' organizations to remind them to check their vehicles first before plying their routes.

Two weeks ago, a passenger jeepney bound for Cubao turned upside down in Barangay Sta. Cruz, injuring at least 21 people, mostly students on their way to school.

Driver Eddie Boy Corong, 26, also lost control of his jeepney that swerved to the right lane and rammed into a garage before turning upside down, police said.

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Malacañang Clinic staff members protest proposed conversion plan

By Tina G. Santos

SEVERAL DOCTORS, NURSES and other medical staff members of the Malacañang Clinic wore black yesterday as a silent protest against what they alleged was a proposal to move them out and convert the facility into a barangay hall.

The medical staff—numbering about 200, excluding volunteers—as well as the clinic's equipment would reportedly be relocated to the Presidential Security Group (PSG) Hospital inside the PSG Headquarters across the Pasig River directly in front of the Palace.

The proposed move gave rise to talk that not all of them could be accommodated at the PSG Hospital. Staff members said they heard that only 10 percent of the clinic's work force would be taken in, while the 90 percent could be forced to opt for early retirement.

For the past several decades, the Malacañang Clinic, located on San Rafael Street just across the Palace, had been serving not only government employees and their dependents, but also the poor residents of the city, particularly those living within the vicinity.

Considered the most sought-after medical service offered by the clinic are the dialysis machines which enable poor patients afflicted by liver diseases to avail of the chance to use the equipment.

According to Jules Castillo, public information officer of Manila Vice Mayor Danny Lacuna, several employees of the clinic, including some of its medical staff who had been working at the clinic for the past 10 to 34 years now, sought the help of the vice mayor on the issue.

Dr. Rubyrose Padua, head of the clinic's dialysis department, said they were given a directive on Monday to leave the clinic within five days, Castillo said.

He added that the 500-sq. m. property compound that houses four two-story buildings would be transformed into a cluster of barangay halls under the Malacañang League of Barangay (Malbar).

Malbar consists of 12 barangays. Two of these—Barangay 639 Zone 65 and Barangay 643 Zone 66—do not have their own barangay halls.

The area where the Malacañang Clinic now stands can accommodate at least three barangay halls, Castillo added.

Lacuna vowed to help the employees of the Malacañang Clinic who would be affected by the move by lobbying for the reconsideration of the plan, Castillo said. "If the plan to close the Malacañang Clinic pushes through, he (Lacuna) might ask that the dialysis machines be donated to a dialysis center he is presently building in Sta. Mesa, Manila, in order to help those who cannot afford to pay for the treatments," Castillo said.

Castillo added that displaced employees of the clinic may also be hired to man the dialysis center, which will be completed before the year ends.

Sought for comment, Barangay Bureau director Norberto Enriquez said he was not aware of the plan converting the Malacañang Clinic into a barangay hall.

However, he said that it was possible that the property was a direct grant to the barangays by Malacañang.

This way to
Petron Fitness Trail

FITNESS STATIONS AT LA MESA
An 800-meter exercise trail featuring 17 outdoor fitness stations was inaugurated the other day at the La Mesa Ecopark in Quezon City for exercise buffs.
RAFFY LERMA

New Camanava pumping station opens in Navotas

By Nancy C. Carvajal

RESIDENTS OF PORTIONS OF Caloocan, Navotas and Malabon (Camanava) can now expect to be spared from the perennial problem of flooding with the inauguration yesterday of a major component of the P5-million flood control project.

The event was attended by President Macapagal-Arroyo, Public Works and Highways Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane, local executives and other government officials.

Carla Bartolo, project director said the Spine Pumping station and floodgate on Lapu-lapu Street in Navotas covered 173 hectares of the Camanava drainage area.

"It would absorb water brought by high tide and strong rains," Bartolo said.

Main roads

Some of the main roads covered by the Spine pumping station are Dagat-dagatan, Avenue, C-3 and R-10.

The pumping station is part of the 18.5-sq.-km flood control project expected to end flooding in northern Metro Manila during high tide and strong rains.

The project will also involve the construction of river walls, polder dikes, navigational floodgates and pumping stations in the Camanava area.

Bartolo said the inauguration of the Spine pumping station meant 60 percent of the project had been completed.

The project is expected to be finished in September 2007.

Objections

Questions about the design of the project, funded by a loan from Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), had been raised by University of the Philippines professors Fernando Siringan and Kelvin Rodolfo.

The UP geologists said the project was technically flawed and would endanger residents near the floodgates area.

The Nishimatsu Construction Co. Ltd. began construction in June 2003.

The project was supposed to be finished last May.

But with only 26 percent of the project done by May 2005, the completion date was moved to June 30, 2007, and later, to September 2007.

3 suspected illegal recruiters nabbed

By Tina G. Santos

THREE SUSPECTED ILLEGAL REcruiters, including a Vietnamese national, were arrested by agents of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) during an entrapment operation in Laguna the other day.

Charged with estafa and large-scale illegal recruitment were filed against suspects Jennie, 52, a Vietnamese; Honofre, 69; and David, 33, all surnamed Aoalin and residents of Calamba, Laguna.

The case stemmed from a complaint filed by Guillermo Agustin Jr. and four others who were allegedly recruited by the suspects to work in Vietnam as engineers.

The suspects reportedly demanded and collected some P400,000 from the complainants who claimed they were promised a monthly salary of $1500 to $2000.

Agustin told NBI that they were given tourist visas by the suspects who told them that their working visas would be issued upon their arrival in Vietnam.

The complainants said they left for Vietnam together with the suspects in June. However, after a few days, the suspects abandoned them and returned to the Philippines without giving them their visas.

Agustin said they were only able to go back to the country with the help of other Filipinos in Vietnam.

Upon their arrival, the complainants demanded their money back from the suspects, but the latter reportedly only gave excuses and alibis. A verification with the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) showed that the suspects were not licensed to recruit workers for overseas employment.

This prompted the complainants to seek the help of the NBI, which immediately formed a team for an entrapment operation.

The suspects were arrested after they received the marked money from two men who acted as applicants for a job abroad.

The three were later detained at the Calamba City Jail.

MEDICAL MISSION
Medical services are offered monthly to Quezon City residents courtesy of former QC Council majority floor leader Bong Suntay

METROBRIEFS

Hospital robbery

QUEZON CITY Police are now investigating a robbery inside a Quezon City hospital involving medical equipment, a police report said. Reported stolen inside a clinic at Cathedral Heights Tower, Saint Luke's Hospital on E. Rodriguez Avenue was an applanation tonometer worth P300,000. According to a report submitted by Supt. Procopio Lipana, the incident was initially investigated by the hospital's security people after the discovery of the theft by Dr. Harvey Uy. The doctor said that when he arrived in his office on Aug. 6, he found the doors and the drawers of the filing cabinets open. "Based on the report of the in-house security, there was no sign of forcible entry," Lipana said. *Nancy C. Carvajal*

Goodyear's 'Bayani'

TIRE manufacturer Goodyear Philippines recently launched Bayani ng Goodyear, a recognition program highlighting outstanding employees who have made exemplary contributions to the company, the local industry as well as in the global manufacturing arena. Goodyear Philippines President David Morin and US Ambassador Kristie Kenney conferred the awards to retired employees Tomas Quiogue, Oscar Zulaybar and the late Narciso Ramos. The honorees received plaques and the distinction of having their names etched in the "Bayani ng Goodyear" wall of fame, a ceremonial marker installed in Goodyear's Las Piñas plant. "Bayani ng Goodyear" affirms Goodyear's commitment in producing world-class products, made by world-class Filipino talents," Morin said. "It celebrates the valuable contributions of our associates who are behind the company's 50-year presence in the Philippines."

Peña; 69

ROMULO Ortañez Peña Sr., a barangay coordinator for Makati Rep. Teodoro Locsin Jr., died on Aug. 16 at the age of 69. Peña's body is at the Galang Memorial Chapels on J.P. Rizal Street, Makati City. He left behind his wife Vilma and children Romulo Jr., Grace, Gladys and George. Peña will be cremated at noon on Sunday, at the Loyola Memorial Chapels on Edsa, Makati City.

Motorcycle accidents in Metro on the rise, MMDA warns

By Tarra V. Quismundo

DO YOU ENJOY BEING ABLE TO avoid Metro Manila's gridlock traffic by traveling on motorcycles? Make sure you take extra care.

The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) advised motorcyclists to be careful as it noted a rise in the incidence of road mishaps involving the two-wheeled transport.

Data from the MMDA Road Safety Unit (RSU) showed that accidents involving motorcycles increased in the last four years. MMDA's traffic chief attributed the increase to the quality of motorbike riders in the metropolis.

"They would drive on the curb, the sidewalks, and just swerve anywhere they want to and zigzag their way through traffic. They have the right to use the road but they have to be careful too," said Angelito Vergel de Dios, executive director of the MMDA Traffic Operations Center.

RSU figures showed motorcycles were involved in 2,092 accidents, of which 51 had fatalities, in the first five months of the year alone. Last year's total was 4,174 accidents.

The latest figure exceeded the total for the whole 2004, which was 1,702. Only 542 accidents were recorded in 2003 and 285 in 2002.

The figure from January to May meant an average of 418 accidents per month, a 20 percent increase from last year's monthly average of 348 incidents.

The monthly average of fatalities in motorcycle accidents in January-May this year also increased by 57 percent, over the figure last year for the same period.

Last year, a total of 79 fatalities in mishaps involving motorcycles were reported.

Comparing the figures, there were 10.2 fatalities per month in the first five months of this year, while 6.5 deaths were reported every month last year.

The MMDA traffic chief said motorcyclists must also respect lane partitions and avoid driving through any available space on the road.

Vergel de Dios added that motorcycle users must use crash helmets designed for their kind of vehicle, not the plastic headgear for bicycle users.

"They should drive on the correct lane. But being careful on the road is up to them. We have traffic enforcers but we can't watch every one of them (motorcyclists) all the time," he said.

Senate would have become a doormat

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

I HAVE NO LOVE LOST FOR SEN. Jinggoy Estrada, but the policemen who went to arrest him at his Senate office didn't respect the institution he represents.

If they disrespect his person, they should at least respect his high position.

The game plan was to bring Estrada to the police station and place him behind bars while his assistants posted bail for their boss. That would have been very embarrassing for the senator.

Whoever was behind the plan had malice aforethought.

* * *

It's a good thing Estrada's colleagues didn't take the insult sitting down. They prevented his arrest. Had they not done that, the Senate as an institution would have become a doormat.

Malacañang has not been giving its due courtesy to the Senate by disallowing Executive Branch personnel to attend hearings or investigations of the august body.

Had the Senate not prevented Jinggoy's arrest, the affront to the legislative body would have been complete.

* * *

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita was overheard to have said upon receiving the news about the Senate incident: "Who instigated that? How could they do that?"

Obviously, official Malacañang (with emphasis on "official") didn't have a hand in the incident.

This is contrary to what one of the arresting officers said to Senate President Manuel Villar who refused to hand over Jinggoy: "*Paano po kung tawagin kami ng* Malacañang? *Ano po ang sasabihin namin* (What if we are summoned by Malacañang? What are we going to say?)

* * *

Some quarters not in the know have expressed surprise why there seems to be "compartmentalized justice" in the handling of the military officers charged with involvement in the Feb. 24 failed coup.

Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, former Army Scout Rangers Regiment commander, and his subordinates are detained at the maximum security detention facility in Camp Capinpin.

But Lim's alleged Marine coup conspirators, ex-commandant Maj. Gen. Renato Miranda and Col. Ariel Querubin, and Marine officers of lesser rank are just under "house arrest." This means that although their movements are restricted, Miranda and Querubin can move about freely inside the camp.

Why is that so? The answer lies in the intense camaraderie within the Philippine Marine Corps.

If Miranda and Querubin were detained, the entire corps would rise up in revolt. The two officers are very much loved by fellow officers and the rank and file.

Fellow Marines cannot imagine Miranda, one of the most loved corps commandants, and Querubin, a Medal of Valor awardee, being treated like criminals.

The military high command is aware of this and is looking the other way.

* * *

My sources in the Corps say Maj. Gen. Nelson Allaga, Marine commandant, and Navy chief Vice Adm. Mateo Mayuga, are in a bind.

If they disturbed the "status quo" by detaining Miranda and Querubin, they would incur the ire of the entire Corps.

It would not be the first time the Marine Corps would rise up against their superiors.

Several years ago, the entire Corps took offense at the comments made by their Navy chief, Vice Adm. Guillermo Wong, against the Marines. They would have thrown Wong into the Manila Bay had not the military authorities intervened. They relieved Wong.

Worse things could perhaps happen to Allaga, who's not popular among his subordinates, and Mayuga if they send Miranda and Querubin to jail.

Police cautious about Ramsey confessed killer

BOULDER, COLORADO—US AUTHORITIES reacted cautiously Thursday to the confession of an alleged US child murderer arrested in Thailand, while the suspect's ex-wife reportedly gave him an alibi.

As has often happened in the notorious unsolved 1996 murder of 6-year-old JonBenet Ramsey, a blonde beauty pageant contestant and daughter of a wealthy Colorado couple, the media shot into full gear after Wednesday's arrest of a suspect in Bangkok.

Thai police working with US law enforcement officials arrested John Mark Karr, 41, after a US arrest warrant was issued on charges of murder, kidnapping and sexual assault on a child.

Thai police said Thursday that Karr had claimed JonBenet Ramsey's death was accidental and that he was "in love with the girl."

In Boulder, Colorado, District Attorney Mary Lacy said it had taken months to track down the suspect, who on Tuesday had begun working as a second-grade teacher in the international school system in Bangkok.

However, she stressed that Karr was presumed innocent under US law.

"The district attorney's office, in conjunction with many other law enforcement agencies, have spent the past few months locating, identifying and finally, yesterday, arresting Mr. Karr," Lacy told reporters.

"Much work has been done in those efforts," she said, noting that "there is much more work to be done now that the suspect is in custody."

But she cautioned that "we will continue to presume this person innocent until and if he is proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt."

Lacy said that authorities would have preferred to conduct their investigation "out of the public eye," but she said that circumstances can sometimes warrant an arrest "before an investigation is complete."

"Exigent circumstances"—such as a fear of flight or a desire to ensure public safety—"can drive the timing of an arrest," she said.

The suspect will be returned to the United States within a week, said Ann Hurst, an attache for the US Department of Homeland Security.

Hurst said he might be linked to another crime in California.

Speculation swirled in the United States about the veracity of Karr's confession to the grisly crime uncovered Dec. 26, 1996, in the basement of the Ramsey home in Boulder, in the western state of Colorado.

Karr's ex-wife claimed she was with him on the other side of the country at the time, a US television station reported.

Lara Karr, who was married to the suspect 1989-2001, said that on the day Ramsey's strangled body was found, she, her husband and their three sons were together in the southeastern state of Alabama, San Francisco's channel KGO-TV said.

Lara Karr's comments were not reported directly, but paraphrased by a reporter in Petaluma, a town in northern California.

According to the report, Lara Karr was devastated by the news that her former husband had confessed to the killing and that was why she did not want to appear before television cameras.

Lara Karr said her ex-husband had spent a lot of time studying the unsolved cases of Ramsey and Polly Klaas, who was abducted from her Petaluma home and slain in 1993, KGO-TV said.

Meanwhile, the Denver Post newspaper reported that a veteran Denver attorney Phil Cherner, who has represented clients who have falsely confessed, said he saw evidence the suspect was lying. *AFP*

Suspect dismissed for being 'too strict'

BANGKOK, THAILAND—THE suspect in the JonBenet Ramsey slaying was dismissed as a teacher at a prestigious Bangkok school in June for being too strict, a school official said Friday.

John Mark Karr, 41, worked just two weeks before he was fired from his job as an English teacher in the elementary school at Bangkok Christian College, said Banchong Chompowong, assistant director of the school's English immersion program.

He said Karr was so strict with his class of first-graders that parents had complained to the all-boys school for Thais, which is considered among the best in the city.

But Banchong said Karr did well in his interview. He was clean-cut, polite and articulate and had a resume detailing experience in countries spanning from the US to Japan, along with other schools in Bangkok.

"John Karr came to us with a good resume and with credentials, but then we allowed him a trial (period) with students, we found he was too strict," Banchong said.

He gave some children "time outs," a form of discipline forcing a child to sit quietly and not participate with other classmates in activities.

He taught only one class for the first two weeks of June right after the school year began. The school, founded in 1852 by American Presbyterian missionaries, has a total enrollment of 5,500 students in grades 1 through 12. About 100 native English-speaking teachers work at the school, which has a high turnover rate.

"He's just a nice person—a nice man," Banchong said of his first impression of Karr. "And he takes his work seriously."

Karr was arrested in Bangkok on Wednesday. He told US investigators he drugged and then raped Ramsey, the 6-year-old girl former child beauty queen, before accidentally killing her in the US state of Colorado in 1996, Thai police Lt. Gen. Suwat Tumrongsiskul said Thursday after he was briefed about the interview. *AP*

UNDATED family photo shows JonBenet Ramsey. The arrest of a former schoolteacher was a surprise breakthrough in a lurid, decade-old murder case some feared would never be solved. AP

Doctors warn of powerful TB strain

TORONTO—VIRULENT STRAINS of tuberculosis resistant to all standard drugs have killed 52 of 53 patients in a rural hospital in South Africa in recent months, a team of researchers reported here Thursday.

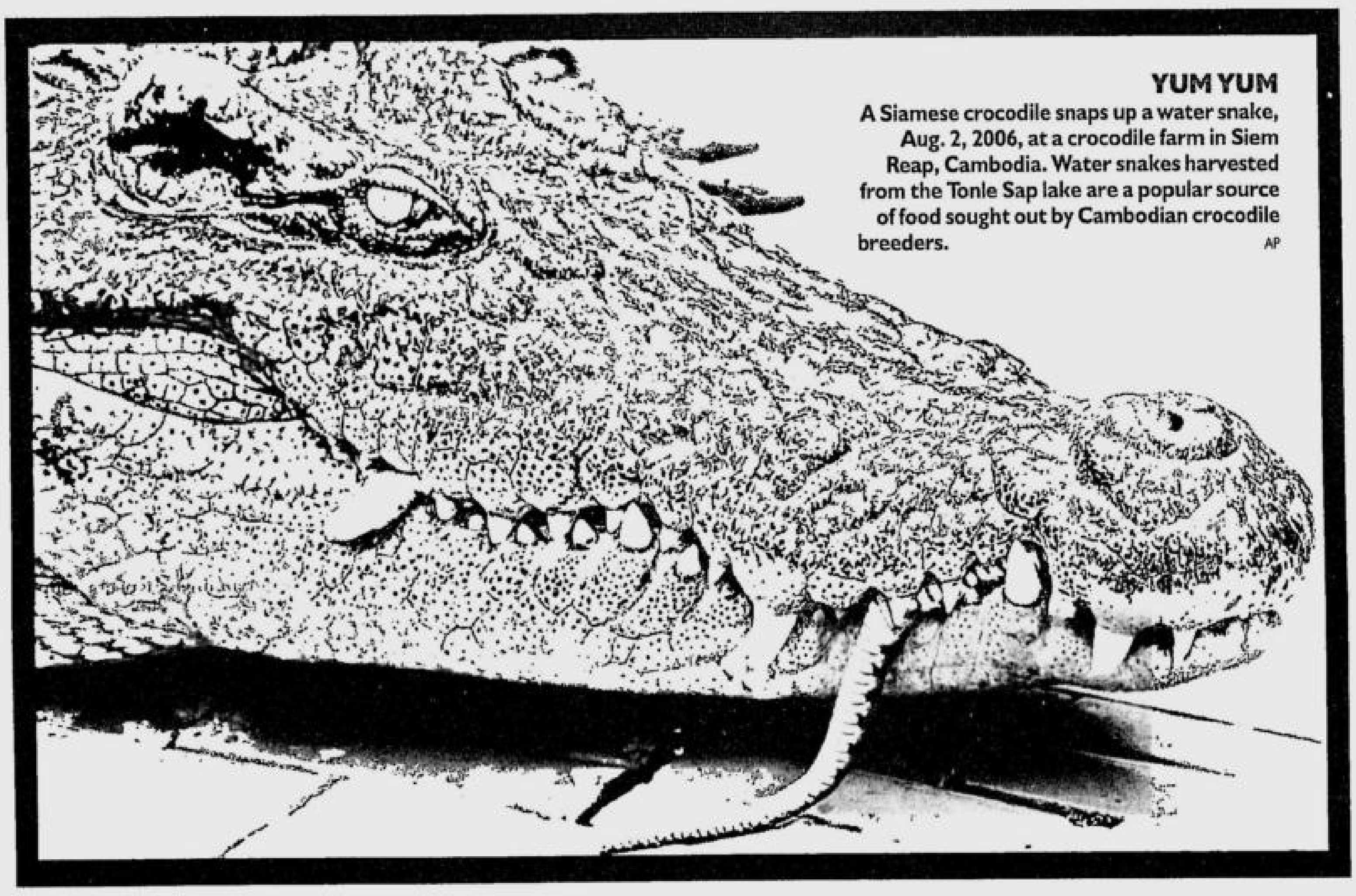
The patients, who were also infected with the AIDS virus, were resistant to all first- and second-line drugs for tuberculosis, Dr. Neel R. Gandhi told the 16th International Conference on AIDS.

"It's essentially not treatable," said Dr. Gerald Friedland, an AIDS specialist at Yale who worked in the South African hospital and was an author of the study. "There's quite a lot out there. We don't know the whole extent."

The illness was rapidly fatal. About half the patients died within 30 days of the time their sputum was collected and sent to a laboratory.

"It's a potential time bomb," Friedland said. "It's an extremely serious thing. I don't want to convey a sense of panic—it's not Ebola. It's urgent, but it's not the same."

Officials from South Africa, the World Health Organization in Geneva and other public health agencies will meet in South Africa in the next few weeks to come up with a strategy, he said. *NYT*



YUM YUM

A Siamese crocodile snaps up a water snake, Aug. 2, 2006, at a crocodile farm in Siem Reap, Cambodia. Water snakes harvested from the Tonle Sap lake are a popular source of food sought out by Cambodian crocodile breeders. AP

Careful stars, the taxman is watching

LOS ANGELES—HOLLYWOOD celebrities who attend awards ceremonies and leave with armloads of swag can expect one more item with their gift baskets: a tax form.

The Internal Revenue Service announced on Thursday that it had settled an outstanding tax matter with the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences over gift baskets—which this year were worth about $100,000 each—given to presenters and performers at the Oscars.

The academy, which votes on and distributes the Oscars, said it would send 1099 tax forms to those who received the gift baskets this year, and a representative confirmed that the organization had paid an undisclosed settlement to the IRS to cover taxes owed by those who received gifts for previous years.

The organization also disclosed that its board of governors had already decided in April to discontinue the practice of giving baskets filled with gifts provided by businesses promoting their goods and services. But its agreement with the IRS sent a signal that other groups that shower celebrities with gifts will be expected to deal with the tax consequences of the transactions.

"The academy had an obligation to do the reporting to us," said Mark W. Everson, the IRS commissioner, in an interview. "They have fulfilled that obligation."

The academy had contacted the IRS earlier this year, concerned that there might be a tax obligation attached to the ever-pricier gift bags given at the ceremony. This year the basket included a four-night stay at a Honolulu hotel and a Krups espresso machine. *NYT*

UK search turns up parts for a bomb

LONDON—BRITISH INVESTIGATORS have found a suitcase with bomb-making materials in the woods near the homes of several men suspected of plotting to blow up trans-Atlantic aircraft, the BBC reported Thursday.

A police spokesperson declined to comment on the report.

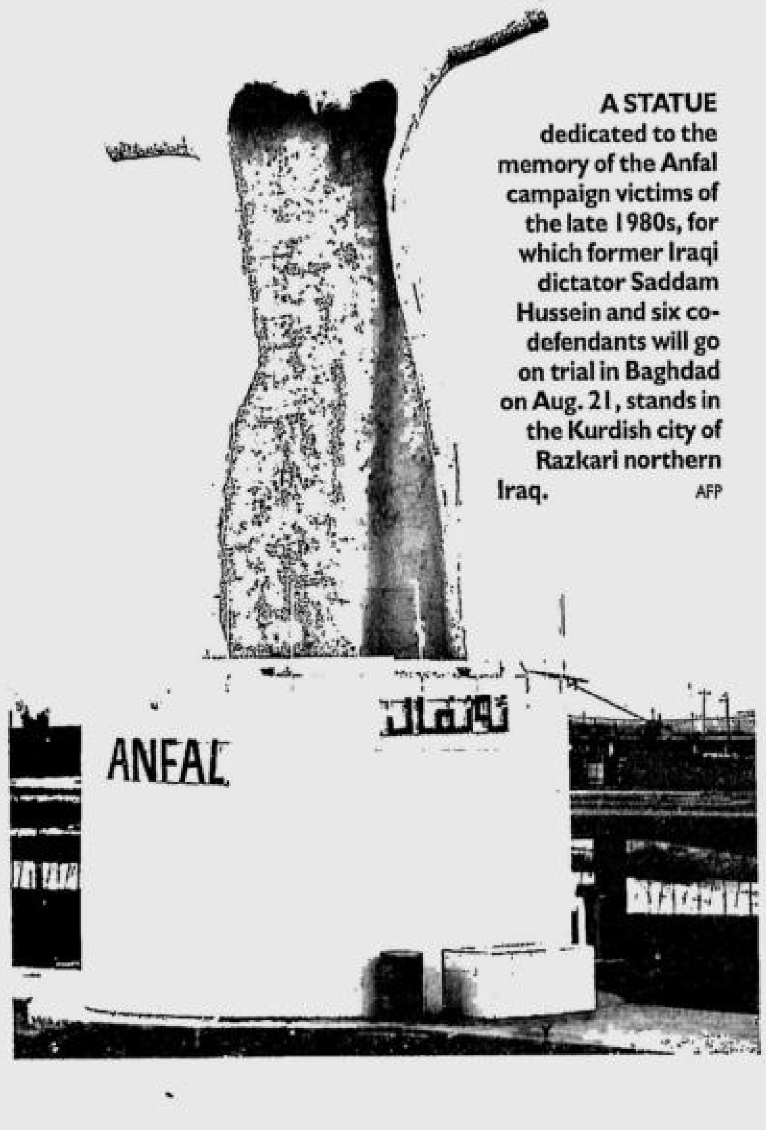
Investigators have been searching the woods in High Wycombe, about 35 miles northwest of London, since the arrests last Thursday of 24 people suspected in the plot. At least five suspects are from High Wycombe. Since last week, one suspect has been released and another arrested.

The BBC quoted an anonymous police official as saying that the suitcase contained "everything you would need to make an improvised device."

Under British law, few details of investigations are released, and much information cannot be printed for fear of prejudicing a suspect's trial. As such, amid severe airport delays that are only now easing, a fearful public has learned little of the evidence in the sprawling case, which has included nearly 20 arrests in Pakistan.

The police did say Thursday that they had searched 49 homes and businesses, as well as the woods in High Wycombe. Of those searches, 36 have been completed, the police said. *NYT*

Saddam trial risks being unfair, says group



A STATUE dedicated to the memory of the Anfal campaign victims of the late 1980s, for which former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein and six co-defendants will go on trial in Baghdad on Aug. 21, stands in the Kurdish city of Razkari northern Iraq. AFP

BAGHDAD—THE IRAQI COURT which will hold Saddam Hussein's second trial next week, on charges of genocide against the Kurds, has proven it is incapable of holding fair hearings, a human rights group said on Friday.

"Based on extensive observations of the tribunal's conduct of its first trial ... Human Rights Watch believes that the Iraqi High Tribunal is presently incapable of fairly and effectively trying a genocide case," the group said.

The ousted Iraqi president, who is awaiting a verdict in his first trial for crimes against humanity, will be in the dock again on Monday for the so-called Anfal campaign of killings of tens of thousands of Kurds in the north in the late 1980s.

The first trial of Saddam and seven coaccused in connection with the killings of 148 Shiites in the 1980s was marred by the killing of three defense lawyers and the resignation of the tribunal's first chief judge over what he said was government interference. It was adjourned until Oct. 16.

"None of the Iraqi judges and lawyers has shown an understanding of international criminal law. The court's administration has been chaotic and inadequate, making it unable to conduct a trial of this magnitude fairly," the group said.

It also questioned the extensive reliance on anonymous witnesses, which it said undercut the defense's right to confront the evidence and cross-examine their testimony.

Saddam and six other defendants, including his cousin Ali Hassan al-Majid, nicknamed "Chemical Ali" for ordering gas attacks, are accused of genocide for their role in the Anfal campaign.

Kurds say tens of thousands of people perished and that entire villages were wiped out in the violence.

"The Anfal campaign was a genocide carried out against part of the Kurdish population," said Richard Dicker, director of Human Rights Watch's International Justice Program.

"Genocide is the most serious crime there is, and it's essential that the tribunal conducts the Anfal trial fairly," he said in a statement accompanying a report on Anfal.

Human Rights Watch said it had conducted extensive field research in northern Iraq in 1992 and concluded that between 50,000 and possibly as many as 100,000 had been killed during a series of military campaigns between February and August 1988.

"Our investigation showed the Iraqi government ordered the extermination of part of its Kurdish population. But individual guilt or innocence in the Anfal case can only be determined through a fair trial," Dicker said. *Reuters*

Car bombings kill 10 despite Iraq crackdown

BAGHDAD, IRAQ—CAR BOMBS killed 10 people in Baghdad on Thursday as violence persisted in the capital despite the US-led security crackdown. Two more American soldiers were killed in combat, the US command said.

Iraqi officials announced plans to double the amount of money spent to import fuel to combat country's worst oil and gasoline shortages in years. Much of the fuel crisis is due to insurgent attacks on convoys and Iraq's fragile pipeline network, Oil Ministry officials said.

Seven people were killed and 15 were wounded when a car bomb exploded at midday near an outdoor market Baghdad's biggest Shiite district, in Sadr City, the Iraqi army general command said.

The blast extensively damaged shops and stalls but caused relatively few casualties in the normally crowded area because so many shoppers had left the area to escape the 49 degree Centigrade (120 degree Fahrenheit) midday heat.

Another car bomb missed an Iraqi police patrol in the Mansour district of western Baghdad but killed three bystanders and wounded a fourth, police Capt. Jamil Hussein said.

The two American fatalities included one soldier killed Thursday when a roadside bomb exploded near a foot patrol south of Baghdad, the US military said. The other was a soldier from the 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division who died Wednesday of wounds suffered in Anbar province, stronghold of the Sunni Arab insurgency west of Baghdad.

This month, at least 26 US service members have died in Iraq—17 of them in Anbar.

The Baghdad bombings occurred in areas of the city not yet targeted in a new US-led security crackdown, which began this month with the arrival of thousands of US and Iraqi reinforcements.

Those troops will try to quell the wave of Sunni-Shiite violence which has brought this country to the brink of civil war. The operation so far has focused on four Baghdad neighborhoods—three mostly Sunni and one predominantly Shiite. *AP*

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

PEOPLE peer at the bodies of two Islamic Jihad militants who were killed by Israeli forces in the West Bank village of Obeydeya, near Bethlehem, Aug. 18. REUTERS

With war's end, Israelis bicker over rebuilding

KIRYAT SHEMONA, ISRAEL—WITH THE WAR over, the bickering has begun over compensation for the damage caused by the thousands of Hezbollah rockets that slammed into northern Israel.

Government inspectors and tax workers set up shop in a community center in the border town of Kiryat Shemona, probably the hardest-hit town. They expected to address close to 5,000 claims after the Israeli government promised to pay for all damages caused by Hezbollah's rockets.

But it could take months, they said Thursday, and the going wasn't easy.

In the makeshift claims center, residents newly returned from a month in underground bunkers or from trips to the south, out of harm's way, muttered to themselves as they tried to navigate what would almost certainly prove to be a lengthy and exhausting bureaucracy.

They first waited in the energy-sapping heat for a number. This allowed them to pass to the first floor, where they could grab forms. In the basement many of them pushed toward a waist-high swinging door in an effort to reach a manager, who they later learned wasn't there.

Somewhere in the middle were four police officers and a security guard, each strategically located so one had to walk around them to get anywhere. Everywhere there was yelling and frustration.

"By 10 a.m., there's lots of shouting. You think it's like another war," said Lior Amar, 28, who said he'd spent four days trying to get his claim work done. He said his neighbor's house suffered a direct hit from a Katyusha rocket, and his got the spray.

By Thursday, Amar had obtained a form from an independent inspector that said the damage to his house was worth 13,549 shekels (US$3,150), but he wasn't confident it would be approved by the government, which has brought around 20 of its own inspectors to Kiryat Shemona.

"It's very difficult for us," said Adi Zidman, a tax worker who helped oversee the claims operation here. Zidman said the office in Kiryat Shemona was open from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. and sometimes past midnight as workers struggled to get it done, but the workload was only getting heavier as more people returned home from their refuges across the country.

There is no fixed estimate of how much economic damage Hezbollah caused with its 3,970 rocket strikes on northern Israel, but local media put the figure at around US$3 billion in damages and lost revenue. Tax authorities say Israelis have submitted 6,000 claims for property damage so far.

Finance Minister Avraham Hirschon said it was too early to give a number, but it would likely run into the "many billions."

"I don't even want to guess," said Hanan Galatzer, one of the managers of the Kiryat Shemona operation. Officials there said they'd already inspected close to 800 homes, but thousands more remained. Once that process was complete, it would take about two weeks before the money showed up in a resident's bank account, they said. *AP*

UN gets generous offers for new force in Lebanon

UNITED NATIONS—THE UNITED NATIONS RECEIVED substantial offers of troops for Lebanon that may enable it to field an advance force of 3,500 in two weeks, despite France's refusal to provide a large contingent.

"I would say the show is on the road," said Mark Malloch Brown, the UN deputy secretary general, after a meeting of more than 40 potential troop contributing nations on Thursday.

Deployments by Italy, Spain and Belgium are key because they can move their forces into Lebanon quickly to meet the 15-day UN deadline for the advance contingent. All three nations are studying draft rules of engagement presented at the meeting, participants reported.

A UN Security Council resolution adopted on Aug. 11 called for a truce and a peacekeeping force to help the Lebanese army supervise the pullout of Israeli troops from the southern Lebanon after 34 days of fighting between Israel and Hezbollah guerrillas. Most fighting stopped on Monday.

The resolution, number 1701, authorized up to 13,000 well-armed troops to augment the 2,000-member UN force now in Lebanon, known as Unifil.

Germany and Denmark offered maritime and border patrols and Indonesia, Malaysia and Nepal, among others, offered ground troops, the participants said. The United States will aid in planning and logistical support, Alejandro Wolff, the deputy US ambassador told reporters.

"We have it in quantitative terms but the issue is which battalions we can get there in the timeline required," Malloch Brown told reporters. "Are they the right battalions with the right skills and equipment?"

French President Jacques Chirac said he would dispatch only 200 army engineers in addition to the 200 already part of Unifil, which is commanded by a French general. He said 1,700 troops were offshore but would not be put under UN command.

France had been expected to be the backbone of the force.

"We had hoped—we make no secret of it—that there would be a stronger French contribution," Malloch Brown said.

"Others have come forward and we are pretty convinced we've got the elements here of a strong force."

France's hesitation has confused UN officials. On Wednesday, French Defense Minister Michele Alliot-Marie criticized the mandate of the force, which France wrote in drafting the Aug. 11 resolution. She also objected to troops coming under UN control—another provision Paris had insisted on to meet Lebanese demands.

In Lebanon, the national army moved slowly into the south to take control of Hezbollah strongholds and linked up with UN peacekeepers already in Lebanon as Israeli forces pulled back. *Reuters*

NOW the cleanup begins—Lebanese volunteers clean Ramlet el-Bayda beach (White Sand) in Beirut Aug. 17 armed only with shovels and plastic buckets. AFP

CHINA DROUGHT
A woman walks on a dried-up river bed in southwest China's Chongqing Municipality Aug. 16. At least 14 million people and 15 million livestock are suffering from a shortage of drinking water as continuous droughts and searing heat ravage western China, Xinhua News Agency reported. REUTERS

98 rebels killed in fresh Sri Lanka fighting

COLOMBO—SRI LANKAN TROOPS Thursday beat back a fresh attempt by Tamil Tigers to overrun the main defenses of the northern peninsula of Jaffna and killed at least 98 guerrillas, media minister Anura Yapa said.

More than 100 rebels were wounded in the close-quarter fighting in the early hours of the morning, the minister told reporters here.

The attack on the northern peninsula, where hundreds have died in a week of fierce fighting, came hours before US envoy Steven Mann met Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapakse to demand both sides halt violence and return to negotiations.

"We believe a continuation of the fighting will only make the prospects for peace worse and will benefit neither side. The US therefore calls for the immediate cessation of hostilities," the senior state department official told reporters.

Fighting also erupted in the eastern coastal town of Trincomalee, with foreign ceasefire monitors saying they were forced to retreat from heavy overnight shelling.

In Jaffna, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) launched a seaborne attack on army bunkers at Kilali on the peninsula's southwestern edge but troops hit back with rockets and rocket-propelled grenades, officials said.

"The fight lasted until morning and Sri Lankan forces have been able to inflict heavy casualties on the Tigers," said Yapa. "We have recovered 98 Tiger bodies and destroyed three LTTE boats."

Yapa gave no soldier casualty figures. But military officials who wished to remain unnamed said at least six soldiers were killed and 60 wounded in the intense battle.

The defense ministry said before the latest assault that 250 rebels fighting for autonomy for the nation's Tamil minority had been killed since the latest upsurge in violence on Friday in Jaffna.

Military sources said some 150 troops had also been killed and 300 wounded.

There was no immediate reaction from the guerrillas to the military claims but the rebels said their losses in the first two days since launching an attempt to overrun military positions totaled only 22 dead.

Both sides are regularly accused of exaggerating the losses of their opponents.

The Jaffna peninsula is cut off from the rest of Sri Lanka by Tiger-held territory.

The military is forced to resupply its troops in the northern tip of the island by air and by sea from the port of Trincomalee, which was itself the scene of overnight fighting.

"We had to move our base from Trincomalee. The area where we were staying came under heavy fire, our accommodation was almost hit," said Thorfinnur Omarsson, spokesperson for the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM). *AFP*

US judge convicts tobacco giants over decades of lies

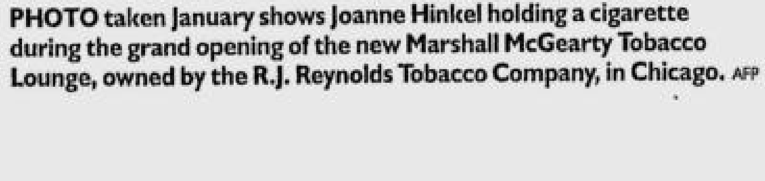


PHOTO taken January shows Joanne Hinkel holding a cigarette during the grand opening of the new Marshall McGearty Tobacco Lounge, owned by the R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company, in Chicago. AFP

WASHINGTON—THE TOBACCO industry lied for decades about the lethal effects of smoking and will be banned from using descriptive terms such as "lights" on cigarettes, a US federal judge ruled Thursday.

Gladys Kessler, US district judge for Washington, endorsed the government's case that it was incontrovertible that cigarette smoking causes disease and death.

"Despite internal recognition of this fact, defendants have publicly denied, distorted and minimized the hazards of smoking for decades," she ruled against the tobacco industry after a two-year trial. Her decision is open to appeal.

The defendants included Philip Morris' parent Altria, American Tobacco, British American Tobacco (BAT), Brown and Williamson Tobacco, Lorillard Tobacco, RJ Reynolds Tobacco and industry-funded lobby groups.

But Kessler stopped short of ordering the companies to fund a nationwide campaign against smoking or of banning tobacco advertising in motor sports, as sought by the government.

Kessler "permanently enjoined" the companies from conveying any kind of positive health message in their cigarette packaging or advertising, as of Jan. 1 next year.

Forbidden descriptions will include the words "low tar," "light," "ultra light," "mild" and "natural."

The judge ordered tobacco companies to put out statements correcting their past lies and highlighting their "manipulation of cigarette design and composition to ensure optimum nicotine delivery."

The statements would have to be published on the companies' websites, as special inserts in cigarette packets, as full-page advertisements in the Sunday editions of a host of US newspapers, and as messages on national television.

The Department of Justice said it was "pleased with the court's finding of liability on the part of the defendants, but disappointed that the court did not impose all of the remedies sought by the government."

"Nevertheless, we are hopeful that the remedies that were imposed by the court can have a significant, positive impact on the health of the American public," it said in a brief statement.

The ruling represents the latest setback for the tobacco industry after a years-long legal onslaught in the United States and around the world.

The American Heart Association welcomed Kessler's ruling but condemned her remedies as "weak."

"It's like a criminal act worthy of a life sentence but instead they got a slap on the wrist," association chief executive Cass Wheeler said.

The Campaign For Tobacco-Free Kids said the industry was guilty as charged—"guilty of lying to the American people and marketing their deadly and addictive products to our children at untold cost in lives and suffering."

But the group also complained about the remedies and urged the government to appeal for stricter constraints on the industry's future conduct. *AFP*

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Finishing kick helps Phelps net butterfly record/A23

SPORTS

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- Tiger, Phil three behind PGA lead /A23

Valle's tender touch shoots down Orcollo

VALLE: Soft break does it.

By Musong R. Castillo

EMPLOYING THE SOFT BREAK WITH SURgical precision, Gandy Valle provided a ho-hum ending to what was expected to be a colossal confrontation with Dennis Orcollo last night and barged into the finals of the winner's bracket in the 2006 BSCP National Pool championship.

Using the tactic for the first time in the tournament, Valle made Orcollo a virtual spectator in a 9-1 victory.

The win earned for Valle a solid shot at the P1 million champion's purse and, more importantly, a seat in the prestigious World Pool championship in Manila later this year.

The change to the less-than-breathtaking style of starting each rack was a tip shared by top-seeded Alex Pagulayan the night before.

Orcollo, the reigning US Bar Tour champion, will now have to try his luck in the loser's bracket.

"It turned out that a soft break opened up the table better," Valle, the runner-up in this year's Reno Open, said in Filipino. "I have achieved what I had set out to do at the start of the event (earn a World Pool slot), now I will try to win the event."

The way Valle opened up the semifinal match was anything but soft, though, as he raced to a 7-0 lead before making a crucial mistake in playing a safety on the pink No. 4 for Orcollo's only win.

Event rules call for the finalists in both brackets to advance to a crossover Final Four format, and Valle will not get a shot at his buddy Pagulayan until the Finals, assuming both get there.

Pagulayan, the hot favorite, was still playing Ronnie Alcano at presstime, even as Jeffrey de Luna added Warren Kiamko and Rami Gallego to his list of top-gun victims, 9-5 and 9-4, respectively, to advance in the loser's side.

Rodolfo "Boy Samson" Luat, a recent winner of the Asian Tour's Kaoshiung leg, bowed out after taking a 9-8 loss at the hands of Jimmy Cheng even as Gabica earned a shot at De Luna following a masterful 9-5 conquest of Ed Peña.

RP-Bacolod batters nip Lat Ams, nail s'final slot

BACOLOD CITY'S EDUCATION and Training Center School (ETCS) outlasted tough Latin America, 4-3, over nine gripping innings Thursday (Friday morning in Manila) and advanced to the semifinal round of the 2006 Junior League (13-14) Softball World Series at the Everest Park in Kirkland, Washington.

The Filipina softbelles, the Asia-Pacific champions, forged a Final Four clash with the West Point batters of US-East, who finished at the top of Pool A with a 4-0 win-loss slate.

The other semifinal match pits US-South against US-Southwest.

The Bacoleñas' victory over the Latin Americans rounded out their elimination record at 3-1, second-best in Pool B. The ETCS girls' only defeat came at the hands of defending champion US-South Thursday.

Powerhouse US-East ended its eliminations schedule Thursday with a 13-1 blasting of the Turtle Club of Canada, 13-1.

The Filipinas aim to pull off an upset against the US-East batters in their knockout match at 7:45 a.m. Friday in Field A. The match between South and Southwest fires off at 8 a.m. in Field B.

US-South, represented by the Naples Girls team from Florida, survived US-Central, 3-2, Thursday to complete a four-game sweep in Pool B.

A TEAM ILLAM batter gets ready for a pitch. LEGENDS SPORTS PHOTOGRAPHY, OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE BIG LEAGUE WORLD SERIES.

Needville of US-Southwest clobbered Europe-Middle East-Africa, 8-0, and wound up with a 3-1 slate in Pool A.

The Bacoleñas, mentored by Lagrimas Ciokon, Vilda Benjamin and Dina Barlita, are hoping to duplicate the 2003 feat of the Paglaum Village National High School belles who brought home the Philippines' first and only World Series crown.

The Bacolod squad is the only surviving RP team in the World Series after Team Manila and two International Little League Association of Manila (Illam) squads were knocked out of contention.

Illam's Senior League Baseball World Series team concluded its Pool A stint with a 5-2 loss to Canada's Regina National team from Saskatchewan on Wednesday and wound up with a 1-3 record.

The other Illam team seeing action in the Little League Softball (11-12) World Series in Portland, Oregon, yielded to Latin America champion Juliana Little League from Curacao, Netherlands Antilles, 5-4, and also settled for a 1-3 mark in Pool B.

Team Manila, the fourth RP team in the event, took a 4-0 loss to Connecticut and saw its record sink to 2-4 in the Big League Softball World Series in Kalamazoo, Michigan. *Christian Irl Tan, Inquirer Visayas*

JOSE Rizal's James Seña fouls Perpetual help's Virgilio Manuel on the pivot. RYAN LIM

Altas, Stags score, keep flickering hopes alive

By Marc Anthony Reyes

PERPETUAL AND SAN SEBASTIAN STAVED off outright elimination by hurdling their respective foes last night in the NCAA men's basketball at the Rizal Coliseum.

The Altas took the tougher route, fetching some endgame brilliance from Fritz Bauzon and Ronald Reyes to defeat Jose Rizal, 67-66, for their fourth win in 12 games.

Earlier, San Sebastian also remained in contention after downing host St. Benilde, 68-63, ending a four-game losing streak for the Stags.

The Stags, desperate to make the Final Four in the 11th hour, now have four wins against eight setbacks and will still have to hurdle Jose Rizal on Aug. 20 and Perpetual Help on Sept 1 to keep that hope alive.

"It's a very slim chance but that's the only thing we have," said SSC coach Raymond Valenzona.

As crucial as the victories may have been for both squads, their hopes are also largely pinned on idle Mapua, which needs just one more victory to seal the Final Four cast—one that will not include the Stags and the Altas.

The Heavy Bombers appeared to have a win in their hands when Floyd Dedicatoria and John Wilson came through with back-to-back baskets to give them a 66-65 edge with just 17 seconds.

But Bauzon stripped Wilson of possession in the ensuing play and then hit a slicing Reyes in the lane for a 67-66 edge, 11 seconds to play.

In junior play, the Staglets secured a Final Four slot after downing the CSB-LSGH Greenies, 66-58. It was their seventh win in nine games, while CSB-LSGH absorbed its sixth loss in nine outings.

Meanwhile, another controversy threatened to rock the league after questions were raised over the eligibility of Jose Rizal guard Jeff Pria.

The varsity scores:

Second Game

SAN SEBASTIAN 68—Viray 12, Delgado 11, Bulawan 10, Ballestros 9, Raymundo 9, Lindaya 7, De Leon 5, Vicente 2, Ampatuan 2, Sagad 1, Najorda 0, Aquino 0, Juan 0.

ST. BENILDE 63—Sevilla 16, Urra Jr 7, Robles 7, Manding 5, Johnston 5, Layug 4, Cadiz 4, Aldover 4, Manlapaz 3, Libunao 3, Urra III 2, Devaras 2, Trillo 0, Umlas 0, David 0.

Quarters: 13-14, 26-25, 47-45, 68-63

Third Game

PERPETUAL 67—Bauzon 19, Misa 15, Lee 15, Reyes 10, Mendoza 7, Perturbos 1, Manuel 0, Galabin 0, Racho 0.

JOSE RIZAL 66—Wilson 19, Dedicatoria 14, Sena 11, Cagoco 11, Pradas 6, Fenequito 3, Hayes 2, Bucao 2, Nocom 1, Echane 0, Caspe 0, Pria 0.

Quarters: 18-20, 33-31, 49-46, 67-66

Futures tilt: Taiwanese ousts Tierro

FILIPINO PATRICK JOHN TIERRO BOWED to Taiwanese qualifier Tsung Hua-yung, 3-6, 6-1, 6-7 (6), yesterday in the quarterfinals of the US$10,000 Indonesia Futures 3 tournament at the Sario Tennis Center hardcourt in Manado.

The fifth-seeded Tierro, 19, had several chances in the tiebreaker but Tsung, who ousted No. 2 Yaoki Ishii of Japan in the second round, would not be denied.

Tsung advanced against third seed Suwandi Suwandi of Indonesia, who scored a 6-4, 6-3 victory over qualifier Hsieh Wang-cheng, another Taiwanese.

In other matches, No. 4 Korean Kim Dong-hyun rallied past Indonesian Bonit Wiryawan, 4-6, 6-0, 6-3, to forge a clash with No. 6 Indonesian Elbert Sie, a 6-2, 6-4 winner over Hong Kong's Yu Hiu-tung.

RP Team's Billy Mamaril (left) in action against Lebanon's Sabah Khoury. RYAN LIM

RP 5 opens defense of Brunei Cup today

AFTER FINISHING DEAD LAST IN Qatar and landing an awful sixth in the Jones Cup, the San Miguel-Pilipinas team undergoes a major personnel transformation as it opens defense of the Brunei Cup today against Saudi Arabia at the National Indoor Stadium.

Out of the team are Jimmy Alapag, Mick Pennisi, Dennis Miranda and rookies Arwind Santos and Kelly Williams. Enter: Mark Telan, Nino Canaleta, Dorian Peña, Dondon Hontiveros and Danny Seigle.

Game time is 9 p.m.

The 6-foot-6 Telan and Canaleta, the PBA's slam-dunk champion, are both from the Air21 Express. Peña, Hontiveros and Seigle are from San Miguel.

They will join RP-Lebanon series holdovers Ranidel de Ocampo, also from the Express, Mike Cortez and Willie Miller of the Alaska Aces, and Don Allado, Renren Ritualo and Asi Taulava of the Talk 'N Text Phone Pals.

To be handled by assistant coach Aboy Castro in the absence of national mentor Chot Reyes, who will follow from Taipei on Aug. 21, the Nationals face South Korea on Aug. 20, the Darwin All-Stars of Australia on Aug, 21, Barangay Ginebra on Aug. 23 and Jordan on Aug. 25.

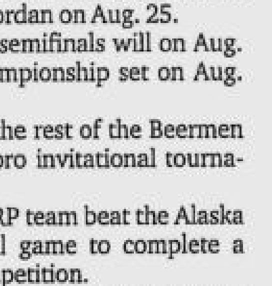
The crossover semifinals will on Aug. 26, with the championship set on Aug. 27.

Reyes is with the rest of the Beermen competing in a pro invitational tournament in Taiwan.

Last year, the RP team beat the Alaska Aces in the final game to complete a sweep of the competition.

The Nationals departed Manila at 4 p.m. yesterday via Royal Brunei.

Only a genie can solve Nationals' woes



By June Navarro

WITH THE CURRENT STATE OF BASKETBALL in the country, only a mythical genie in a bottle can make the dreams of Philippine team coach Vincent "Chot" Reyes come true.

After beating the second best team in Asia twice, Reyes voiced out three wishes that hopefully would lead to the Philippines' return to the world basketball scene.

"First, I pray that our basketball leaders put their act together," said Reyes, referring to the rift between the Basketball Association of the Philippines and the Philippine Olympic Committee, which backs a separate caging group.

"My second prayer is for the Fiba (international basketball federation) to lift the suspension and allow us to see action in Fiba-sanctioned tournaments."

Unhappy with the BAP's expulsion from the POC last year, Fiba suspended the Philippines from competing in all its events.

Should the first two wishes come true, Reyes hopes that his team gets to showcase its talent and capability.

"We're really looking forward to play," said Reyes, whose Nationals beat the Lebanese national team twice in a row recently. "As of now, we're just trying to keep the program on hold pending a decision on the impasse."

"We're ready—it's just a matter of forming the team that I want," added Reyes, after breaking a 0-10 streak with the RP team in Qatar and his San Miguel Beermen in Taipei following a 100-95 win over Lebanon Wednesday night at the San Juan Arena.

Salvador tops Genova chess, nears GM title

SALVADOR: Making good in Italy

FORMER CHILD PRODIGY FIDE MASter Roland Salvador nailed his second grandmaster (GM) result by winning the 10th International Chess Tournament Open held at the Hotel Novotel Genova Ovest in Genoa (Genova), Italy, recently.

The 24-year-old native of San Jose del Monte, Bulacan, scored seven points on 6 wins, 2 draws and 1 loss, the same score posted by countryman International Master Rolly Martinez, who hails from Isabela.

Ranked No. 15 in the RP-Fide (world chess federation) rating list with an Elo of 2420, Salvador, a former kiddie standout, obtained an impressive performance rating of 2612 to pass the Fide requirement of seven titled opponents and 2600 performance rating. He also gained 21 Elo points from the 9-round Open A Swiss-system event confined to titled players.

Martinez, ranked 22nd in the Philippines (2399), gained 6 points but failed to get a GM result.

"*Nagpapasalamat po ako sa Diyos dahil nagbunga din yong paghihirap ko rito,*" said the former Philippine Navy mainstay in a long distance call to engineer Ric Paragua (GM Mark Paragua's father) Wednesday night. "I hope *matulungan ako ng ating mga kababayan sa pagdarasal para makuha ko na ang huling* GM norm."

Salvador got his first GM result when he was still an untitled player in the 26th International Chess Open held in Bratto, Italy, in 2004.

In Genova, Salvador also beat top seed GM Alexei Barsov (2546, Uzbekistan), 3rd seed GM Krum Georgiev (2485, Bulgaria), FM Piero Bontempi (2318, Italy), Candidate Master Mauro Berni (2078, Italy) and CM Christiano Novelli (2145, Italy). He drew with 5th seed GM Miraljub Lazic (2477, Serbia and Montenegro) and GM Petar Velikov (2465, Bulgaria). His only loss came at the hands of 2nd pick GM Marat Dzumaev (2509, Uzbekistan) in the seventh round. *NM Marlon Bernardino*

Peñalosa seeks IBF crown vs Marquez

GERRY Peñalosa (right): Another stab at glory. EDWIN BACASMAS

FORMER WORLD SUPER FLYWEIGHT CHAMPION GERRY PEÑALOSA fights the biggest match of his career when he challenges International Boxing Federation bantamweight king Rafael Marquez of Mexico on Dec. 2 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

The title clash, highlighting the fierce Philippines-Mexico boxing rivalry, provides the 34-year-old Peñalosa another stab at glory after three failed tries to recapture his world 115-pound crown against rangy and elusive Korean and Japanese foes.

"Yes, that is true," confirmed Peñalosa yesterday. "I will be leaving with Manny (Pacquiao) for the US soon, where I will start my training."

Peñalosa, who will train at Freddie Roach's Wild Card Gym in Los Angeles, said he would not take any tune-up bout before his battle with Marquez, ranked by world boxing experts as the greatest bantamweight fighter today.

The title crack couldn't have come at a better time for Peñalosa, who returned from retirement to score a few so-so wins before beating tough Tomas Rojas of Mexico on in the undercard of the Pacquiao-Larios showdown.

Peñalosa captured the WBC super flyweight crown from Japan's Hiroshi Kawashima in 1997, but later lost it to In Jin-chi of Korea.

Peñalosa (50-5-2, 33 KOs), who has never been stopped, has been harking on this bantamweight title crack. He faces a certified knockout artist in Marquez (36-3, 32 KOs), the younger brother of former world 122-pound king Juan Manuel Marquez.

The younger Marquez will be making the eighth defense of his IBF title against Peñalosa. He bludgeoned African Silence Mabuza to submission in the ninth round on Aug. 5 to retain his title. *Salven L. Lagumbay, contributor*

Titans halt Bay Cats' win run at 7

By Mac Anthony Reyes

AMA COMPUTER RESTORED THE BALANCE of power in the National Athletics Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities men's basketball with an 89-82 win over erstwhile unbeaten San Sebastian-Cavite yesterday at the New Era Gym.

Chito Jaime topscored with 24 points to lead the Titans to their fifth win in seven games, tying idle Centro Escolar at third place behind their victims and STI, which drubbed Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Pasay, 91-71, at the UM gym.

Jaime was ably backed by Bong Abac and Jun Gabica, who added 18 and 10 points, respectively, as the aggressive Titans stunned the Bay Cats.

One thing going against the Bay Cats was the injury sustained by center PJ Villaber in the first quarter. The 6-foot-5 Villaber hurt his knees and his absence left a big void in the SSC-Cavite rotation.

The Bay Cats took the league by a storm, zooming to a 7-0 start, reminiscent of University of Manila's dominance the past five seasons.

But pressure caught up on them despite getting the usual numbers from go-to guys Jerome Cenita who unloaded 21 points and Glen Bolocon who added 18 markers.

The Olympians had an easy time climbing to solo second place with a 6-2 slate through Perez's 20-point production. Haddi Porto, Kristian San Luis and Dexter Micutuan contributed 14, 12 and 10 points, respectively.

Prince Carino and JR Casulla joined hand to make 29 points but their work failed to save the Eagles from falling to 3-5.

FIRST GAME (srs)

STI 91—Perez 20, Porto 14, San Luis 12, Micutuan 10, Macalma 8, Junatas 8, Dia 6, Belano 4, Legaspi 3, Lunar 3, Cabangon 2, Limpin 1, Rufin 0.

PLP 71—Carino 17, Casulla 12, Galindez 10, Gawat 8, Soriano 7, Pascual 6, Go-Bon 5, Ferreria 4, Dela Cruz 2, Tayer 0.

Quarters: 21-23, 37-43, 57-58, 91-71.

SECOND GAME (srs)

AMACU 89—Jaime 24, Abac 18, Gabica 10, Galvez 9, Suarez 8, Vergara 8, Mercado 5, Franco 4, Zablan 3, Galang 0.

SSC-CAVITE 82—Cenita 21, Bolocon 18, Villareal 10, Basa 10, Villanueva 7, Gracilla 6, Panes 3, Saquilayan 3, Angub 2, Villaber 2, Pasagui 0.

Quarters: 23-15, 44-38, 69-60, 89-82.

FIGUEROA: Right on target

Figueroa tops archery elims with Cordero

OLYMPIAN JASMIN FIGUEROA AND MARvin Cordero showed their old fiery form to rule archery's second qualifying competition for the Doha Asian Games recently at the PAC ground in Magalang, Pampanga.

Figueroa, who made waves in Athens by beating former world champion Nathalie Valeeva of Italy in the first round, fired 103 points to beat Rachelle Anne Cabral (88) in the women's recurve division finals, while Cordero tallied 96 to nip Mark Javier (96) in the men's group.

Rookie Paul Marlon dela Cruz shared the limelight by surpassing the archery association's 1300 points criteria. The 19-year-old, University of Makati student from Talavera, Nueva Ecija, shot 1303.

Amaya Paz, Earl Benjamin Yap and four others also hurdled the 1300 criteria set by NAAP as qualifying standard for the Philippines' compound division team to the Fita World Cup set Sept. 25 to Oct. 1 in Shanghai, China.

The other compound qualifiers are Abbigail Tindogan, Joann Tabanag and Enrique Cojuangco Jr.

Paz toppled Sydney Olympic veteran Jennifer Chan, 111-105, while Yap downed Cojuangco, 116-112, in the Olympic Round finals.

Abbigail Tindogan and Tabanag finished third and fourth, behind Paz and Chan.

Paz and Yap also broke five Philippine records. Paz carded 1388 in the Fita Round and 344 in the 70-meter distance to better her old marks of 1373 and 340, respectively, and 348 in 60 meters to erase the 347 posted by Tindogan in the last SEA Games.

Aspirants get new chance to earn pro league berths

ASPIRING ROOKIES WHO MAY NOT BE picked or signed for the 2006-07 Philippine Basketball Association (PBA) season has one more alternative left to make their way into Asia's first ever play-for-pay league.

A series of pre-season games has been lined up by the league prior to the start of the 32nd season, where all 10 teams, including rookie squad Welcoat, will be allowed to tap free agent players.

Considered as free agents are players who are undrafted, unsigned or whose contract was not renewed.

The games will be played for about three weeks, with team divided into two groups that will play in a single round robin. The top teams in each group clash in the finals.

Each team is allowed an 18-man "may play" roster, which is either composed of the regular players, free agents and rookie draftees.

"We're holding a more extensive pre-season games this time to allow teams still wanting in players the chance to complete their respective rosters," said PBA commissioner Noli Eala.

Veteran or rookie free agents interested to play are required to register with the Commissioner's Office under the Operations/Technical Group headed by Perry Mertinez by Aug. 23.

The 10 teams will be given a list of all enlisted free agents from which they can select.

In the event the services of a free agent is tapped by at least two teams, the Commissioner will have the sole discretion on which squad the player suits up.

Eala stressed the pre-season matches is a "must" for all teams since most of the games have been arrange for charity fund-raising purposes. Likewise, the games are part of the league's outreach/campus tour programs.

Irok aims for futsal sweep

IROK FOOTBALL CLUB GUNS FOR A SWEEP and the championship in the women's division when it takes on Vintage Football Club (5-1-1) at the resumption of the 2006 Adidas futsal championship at the Blue Eagle Gym in Katipunan, Quezon City.

Irok paces the women's side with an immaculate 7-0-0 (win-draw-loss) and a win after today's 1 p.m. match against Vintage will give it the title outright.

A loss by Irok and a win by De La Salle University (6-0-1), which plays Archers Club650 (3-1-3) at 2 p.m. will force a two-way tie for the lead and a playoff for the title.

Meanwhile, El Magistrado and University of Asia and the Pacific, which both advanced to the semifinals, collide at 3 p.m. for a spot in the semis. Two other semifinalists in the men's second division, the Lions FC and Union FC clash at 4 p.m.

In the second round of the men's first division, Philippine Navy, still struggling at the bottom with a 1-2-5 mark, takes on division leader Philippine Army (9-1-0) at 5 p.m., while Pasargad (2-1-6) and Superfriends (3-0-4) collide at 6 p.m.

In the nightcap at 7, the Emelio Caligdongled Philippine Air Force (7-1-1) battles Veterans (2-0-5) in the event sponsored by Adidas and co-presented by Cherifer Multiviatamin, Snickers Chocolate Bar Blue Angel Alcohol, Powerade and Viva Mineral Water in cooperation with the National Capital Region Football Association.

SPORTSWATCH

Sea Lions shock Jaguars

THE OLIVAREZ COLLEGE SEA LIONS BANKED ON THEIR SOLID DEFENSE AND Edward Barroga's inside game to turn back the Philippine School of Business Administration Jaguars, 93-87, yesterday in the fifth Universities and Colleges Athletic Association (UCAA) men's basketball tournament at the Emilio Aguinaldo College Sports Center. A steal and a drive by Barroga with 1:23 remaining enabled the Sea Lions to keep their distance at 90-87. His layup with 22 ticks left decided the outcome in favor of the Sea Lions. After the Sea Lions forced the Philip Cezar-coached Jaguars to their fifth turnover in the last two minutes, Carlo Evangelista finalized the count with five ticks left and handed Olivarez College a six-point edge in the endgame with his split free throw. Raymund Deveraturda powered the Sea Lions with 20 points, while Barroga fired 15 points. Lester Mendoza showed the way for the Jaguars with 21 points while Joebert Manguerra chipped in 19. In the other game, Raymund Ilagan and Lomer Losentes delivered as the St. Francis Doves outplayed La Salle-Dasmariñas, 96-75. Ilagan shot 23 points while Losentes added 14 for the Doves, who bounced back from an opening-day setback to the defending champion Emilio Aguinaldo College Generals. Ronnie Doneza scored all of his 11 points in the final period.

DLSZ, 3 other teams eye WNCAA lead

FOUR JUNIOR SQUADS LED BY DEFENDING CHAMPION DE LA SALLE ZOBEL shoot for joint leadership today in the WNCAA 37th season basketball tournament at the St. Scholastica's College gym. DLSZ takes on St. Scho at 12:30 p.m. while Chiang Kai Shek College tangles with La Salle College Antipolo in the main match at 2 p.m. DLSZ notched its first win last weekend at the expense of SSHS, 100-16, while CKSC beat St. Scho, 84-51. Also seeking 2-0 slates are Miriam College, which tackles opening day winner Angelicum College at 8 a.m., to be followed by the St. Francis of Assisi College and host St. Stephen's High School tussle at 9:30 a.m. Miriam downed SFAC also last week, 113-3, while Angelicum beat SSHS on Aug. 5, 53-36. In the midgets competition, St. Scho debuts versus DLSZ, a 66-6 loser to defending champion Miriam on Aug. 12. Over at the Rizal Technological University gym, St. Scho, DLSZ and Miriam, also the junior volleyball champion last season, gun for a share of top spot. Miriam battles Angelicum at 8 a.m. while DLSZ tackles St. Scho at 9 a.m.

Junior tennis stakes Malaysia trip

A MALAYSIAN STINT AWAITS THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONS OF THE 2006 MILO Junior Tennis Cup and the North Luzon regional qualifying stage to be hosted by the PRB Tennis Center in Dapitan, Manila, today and tomorrow. The grand prize Malaysia roundtrip tickets will be up for grabs in the boys' and girls' 14-under, 12-under and the unisex 10-under divisions in the event organized by CTW with support from Adidas, Prince tennis equipment, Manila Mayor Lito Atienza and Presidential Assistant for Youth Sports Ali Atienza. Deadline for the North Luzon regional qualifying is at 8 a.m. today at the PRB Tennis Center. All regional champions will compete in the National Finals in Manila on Sept. 1-Oct. 30 for the right to represent the country in the 2006 Milo-Malaysia Junior Tennis Circuit organized by Cheng Joo Chong. South Luzon venue is San Pablo City on Aug. 25-27; Mindanao at the Nazareth Tennis Club on Sept. 15-17; and Visayas at the Mactan Island Lawn Tennis Club in Lapu Lapu City on Sept. 22-24.

Bakbakan '06 with Celebrity Boxing

FORMER RP FLYWEIGHT CHAMPION EDGAR RODRIGO FACES FORMER OPBF Flyweight champion Wanmeechok Singwangcha of Thailand on Aug. 27 at the Aliw Theater at 4 p.m. The bout will be held together with the 1st Celebrity Boxing featuring Rommel Montano versus Andrew Wolff, Christian Vasquez vs Paolo Paraiso, Polo Ravales vs amateur boxer and Bayani Agbayani vs amateur boxer. Singwangcha holds a record of 14-2-0 (9 KOs) and has beaten all his Filipino opponents—Jerry Pahayahay, Dondon Jimenea, Tata Polinar, Sonny Gonzales and Philip Parcon. A golden trophy donated by Pasay City Mayor Peewee Trinidad awaits the winner of the Rodrigo-Singwangcha fight scheduled for 10 rounds. Bakbakan '06 is a presentation of FJE Events and Entertainment, promoted by Jun Sarreal and sponsored by Atrium Hotel, PCSO, Family Rubbing Alcohol, Pagcor and Reli Tours and Travel.

Showdown derby screening set

THE ANNUAL RAY SHOWDOWN 6-STAG DERBY, NOW ON ITS 22ND YEAR AND one of the longest-running stagfests in the country, will again be staged at the Roligon Mega Cockpit on Sept. 2, 5 and 7 with Lakpue Drug Inc. and Thunderbird Enertone as sponsors. Hosts Danny and Romero Yu said more than 100 entries are entered in this event which offers a guaranteed prize of P1 million. Screening and wingbanding will continue at Roligon tomorrow from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For inquiries: 2275; 833-1638 and 852-9812 or 0917-8277484. Meanwhile, the Banahaw 5-stag derby takes center stage at Roligon on Aug. 22 with 90 fights on tap. To be hosted by Eddie Sioson, this battle of Laguna, Batangas, Cavite and Metro Manila cockers offers a cash prize of P400,000.

Mizuno Scramble resumes at Sherwood Hills

ANOTHER BATCH OF QUALIFIERS FOR the grand finals will be known today when the Mizuno Scramble Classic resumes with the second leg at the Sherwood Hills Golf Club in Trece Martires, Cavite.

About 60 pairs will be vying for the slots in three handicap categories in the 18-hole tourney put up by Mizuno through its local distributor Master Sports Inc. The race for Division I is for those with handicap averages of 4 to 9.9, Division II for 10-16.9 and Division III for 17 to 36.

Trophies and merchandise items will be awarded to the winners. Premium Mizuno products and the other cosponsors will also be raffled off.

The three winners in the Valley leg—Adrian Mauricio/Matthew Mendoza, Luis Laureta/Joel San Vicente and Toti Salvador/Arieanne Salvador—are the first grand finalists.

The tourney is also supported by Citibank, Pagcor, BMW Philippines, Philippine Airlines, Pepsi, Gatorade, BMG Solar, Power Bar, Oakley, Citgo and C-Lium Fibre.

The finals will be held next year at the Ayala Greenfield Estates course where the winners will win all-expense paid trips to Japan with entry tickets to the LPGA Mizuno Classic as bonus.

For inquiries, email scramble@mizuno.ph.

Other legs are scheduled at Eagle Ridge, Orchard, Royal Northwoods, Sta. Elena, Manila Southwoods, Eastridge and Tagaytay Midlands.

Finishing kick helps Phelps net butterfly record

VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA—Michael Phelps set a world record for the first time since 2004, lowering his own mark in the 200-meter butterfly at the Pan Pacific Championships.

It was the second world record of the night program Thursday, following soon after Australia's Jessica Schipper lowered the mark in the women's 200 butterfly.

Phelps came from behind on the final lap to win in 1 minute, 53.80 seconds. His old mark of 1:53.93 came at the 2003 World Championships in Barcelona, Spain, a prelude to the Athens Olympics, when he won eight medals, including six gold.

Phelps was under world record pace by 0.16 seconds after the opening 50 meters, but he fell off it as Ryuichi Shibata of Japan overtook him and led the next two laps.

Known for his finishing strength, Phelps roared back in the closing strokes to win by 0.72 seconds. Takeshi Matsuda of Japan was second in 1:56.22 and Shibata finished in 1:56.26.

"When the crowd is cheering, you can always tell that something good is happening," he said. "I heard it coming off the last wall especially and I tried to do a good kickout and build momentum in the last 50."

Phelps had deliberately skipped the 200 freestyle earlier Thursday to conserve his energy for the fly. It paid off with his first world record since winning the 400 individual medley in Athens.

"We really wanted to focus on the 200 fly and try to get the meet started off on a good note," he said.

So did Schipper. About 10 minutes before Phelps dived in, Schipper won the women's 200 fly in 2:05.40.

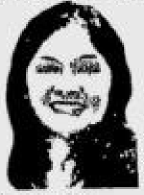
That bettered the world mark of 2:05.61 set by Otylia Jedrzejczak of Poland at last year's World Championships in Montreal. *AP*

PHELPS: Come-from-behind AFP

SCHIPPER: World record too AFP

GTK and Peping foes again? Wow!

IN HUDDLE



Beth Celis

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE that Go Teng Kok and Peping Cojuangco have burned bridges.

But that's exactly what the people at the Rizal Memorial Complex are saying.

The reports are a bit sketchy, but from what I understand, the falling-out occurred following a leadership controversy in the Tatap (Table Tennis Association of the Philippines).

Oldtimer Benito Lim versus incumbent Vic Valbuena for president.

Patafa's GTK behind Benito, Abap's Manny Lopez behind Valbuena, Peping Cojuangco behind Manny Lopez.

The last alliance between Cojuangco and Lopez caused the parting of ways, I was told.

***

"So what else is new?" I asked my informer, reminding him about previous leadership controversies in various NSAs like swimming, billiards, softball, basketball, and now the Tatap.

Ho-hum. Only a week ago, I was talking with former Pasig mayor Mario Raymundo at the PBA office. Mario refreshed my memory, in case I had forgotten. He said he had been voted into the Asaphil (softball) presidency with the blessing of Peping, only to be discredited soon after.

Mario said he has been getting death threats recently, but he swore he is not in the least bit intimidated.

He vowed to fight for the position to his last breath.

All a matter of principle, Mario said.

***

Somehow the case of the Asaphil draws a parallel to the Tatap. I'm not sure I can tell outright who's qualified for the position of president, because one source says Lim is too old (or are we talking of another former president?) while another claims Valbuena has not done anything for the sport.

Anyway, with the backing of Peping, and Manny Lopez, Valbuena continues to sit as president.

Much to the consternation of GTK who is, in this issue, sided by the majority. Or so they say.

"GTK may be a trouble maker but in fairness, his arguments are valid in this particular case," my source said, although he could not substantiate the statement."

I still can't believe GTK and Peping have burned bridges.

***

We can't say his star is rising because Norman Black's star rose many times in the past.

Perhaps we can say his star is rising—again!

A seven-game winning streak for his Ateneo Blue Eagles in the UAAP and a convincing 20-point victory for the SMC-RP team where he subbed for coach Chot Reyes. I think Norman deserves a pat on the back.

I can't remember the last time he got one. Was it some years ago when he steered Sta. Lucia to a first PBA championship?

***

Norman will be the first to tell you—and I agree with him—that no matter how good he is, a coach can't stay on top all the time.

"Every coach has his ups and downs. In my case, I'm up when I read well and react well. There are periods when I don't," Norman said.

Well this UAAP season, he obviously is reading the situations very well, although if you ask him, Norman will trace today's result to last summer's preparations.

***

"The team really worked hard last summer. We played tune-up games in the South—we went to Bacolod twice, to Cagayan de Oro and to Cebu. We played very very well and won all the games, except one against UE," said Norman who observed that his cagers have also developed poise, a trait that has enabled them to get going even the most pressure-filled situation.

"Even when the game is on the line, I don't see panic in their faces."

Tiger, Phil three behind PGA lead

CHICAGO—THE WORLD'S TWO TOP golfers proved to be an even match on Thursday as Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson battled hole-for-hole while paired together in the opening round of the 88th PGA Championship.

Woods and Mickelson each fired three-under 69 at the 7,561-yard Medinah Country Club course, the longest in majors history.

Former Ryder Cup star Chris Riley and world No. 51 Lucas Glover shared the first-round lead on six-under 66 as a tournament record 61 players shot under par.

There were just 27 players under par on opening day in 2005.

"Sixty-nines. We are here to post a number," said Woods, who started slow with a bogey but then fired off three birdies over the next five holes.

"I was behind the eight ball early, but we all missed a few shots, got up and down our way around the golf course."

Reigning British Open champion Woods and Mickelson, who captured the 2006 Masters, have combined to capture six of the last 11 majors. The PGA Championship continues with the tradition of pairing the first three major winners of the year in the first two rounds.

US Open winner Geoff Ogilvy completed the dynamic trio as he is also seeking to make it a two-major season. Ogilvy also shot a 69 on Thursday.

LUCAS Glover (top) uncorks a drive on the way to a six-under card that had Tiger Woods (right, bottom photo) and Phil Mickelson trailing by three.

"I got the best seat in the house, so it was fun," Ogilvy said of the group. "There were a few 'Go Phils' and 'Go Tigers'. One 'Go Joe'. I felt at home with that."

Starting on the 10th tee, Mickelson opened with two consecutive birdies but then had to scramble on the back nine to make par after approach shots on the 12th and 13th holes came up short.

"The last few days I felt like I practiced better than I played today," Mickelson said. *AFP*

Last shot at glory for Holyfield

DALLAS—EVANDER HOLYFIELD IS HEADING back into the ring Friday night, ready to start yet another comeback.

Driven by two powerful memories and a clean bill of health, Holyfield is confident it will end with the only four-time heavyweight champion becoming the first five-timer—and the undisputed champ.

He's even set a target date for his final triumph: the Beijing Olympics, which begin in August 2008.

"I realize I am supposed to retire on top and I know that I can," Holyfield said. "Everything they told me I couldn't do previously, I did it."

The list of doubts that Holyfield has overcome in his career are impressive. But save those for a career retrospective. Up first is his fight against Jeremy Bates, an insurance salesman who'd retired with a 21-11 record with two draws until Holyfield called.

Holyfield is 43 and has won only one of his last six fights. He hasn't fought in 21 months, partly because his last loss was so bad that New York officials revoke his license, citing "diminished skills and poor performance."

Holyfield had no problem getting a license in Texas. He looks to be in good shape, weighing in Thursday at 100 kilos (220 pounds).

Bates—who is about 13 centimeters (five inches) shorter than Holyfield and has a shaven head with a goatee—came in at 102 kilos (225 1/2 pounds).

The fight is the first in what's being billed as "Holyfield V, The Final Chapter." Holyfield is so sure this isn't a one-shot deal that he's already lined up the next bout, against a ranked foe. He declined to name the opponent out of respect to Bates. *AP*

Lebanese take long and winding road to Japan

SENDAI, JAPAN—LEBANON'S AMERICAN-born coach Paul Coughter has taken a lot of trips in his life but none like the journey he and his players endured to get to the World Championships in Japan.

Shortly after hostilities between Israel and Hezbollah broke out in Lebanon, Coughter and his players escaped from the mountains outside of Beirut, embarking on an exhausting journey that took them over the northern Lebanese boarder, into Syria and southwards to Jordan, where they restarted their training camp in Amman.

"We had practiced five days when the war started," Coughter said Friday in Japan. "We saw a window of opportunity to get out and took the last vehicle out of Lebanon and drove 12 hours to Jordan. We practiced five days in Amman, went to Turkey, Slovenia, and the Philippines before arriving here."

During the trip out of Lebanon, Coughter and his players encountered places that had just been bombed.

"We just tried to block everything out," said Coughter. "We had hardly anything to eat and were just trying to convince ourselves we would make it."

Coughter, who has coached on six continents over a career that spans 27 years, said he can't even begin to imagine the stress the war put on his players.

"I'm an American who lives and works in Lebanon," said Coughter. "I can't presume to know what the player is feeling with his wife, child or parents back in Lebanon. All I can try to offer my players is basketball as a positive distraction during this difficult time."

Because of the problems back home, the team wasn't able to bring along some key members including the manager, the conditioning coach and one of its best players, US-born center Paul Khoury, who is stranded in Idaho with visa problems.

Lebanon finished last at the 2002 World Championships and is hoping for better results here, but Coughter said he is realistic about the team's chances.

"Every coach wants his team to advance to the second round," said Coughter. "But I'm a realist. If we lose our first game we'll lose all five."

The top four teams in each group advance to the second round.

The Lebanese are led by one of the Middle East's best players, forward Fadi El Khatib. Two years ago, El Khatib unsuccessfully tried to get a release from his club team so he could play in the NBA. *AP*

NBA's finest grab the spotlight as World Championships start

SAPPORO, JAPAN—NEARLY 50 PLAYers from the National Basketball Association, about one of every six participants, will take the court for their homelands when the Fiba World Championships begin Saturday.

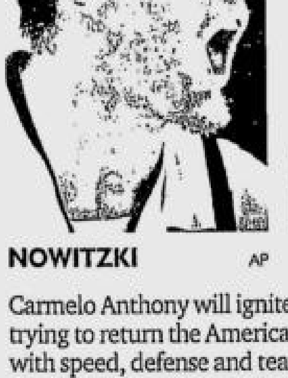
China's Yao Ming, Argentina's Manu Ginobili, Germany's Dirk Nowitzki, Pau Gasol of Spain, France's Boris Diaw and a 12-man US roster top global greats vying for the crown, which also conveys a 2008 Beijing Olympics berth.

"We need to just be aggressive, play hard and you have to understand to some of these players this is their NBA championship, this is their ultimate goal—to win these games," US center Elton Brand said.

"This is as important as any game they have played, so we have to take it as that also."

San Antonio Spurs star Ginobili, who missed the 2002 Worlds with an injury, is a prime example of the NBA's evolution from a nearly all-American league to one with 40 percent talent from outside US borders.

"Many of us are playing with them (in the NBA) every single day so we're getting closer," Ginobili said. "You're not going to see a US team, even though they are very good, beating everyone by 30. That's part of the past."



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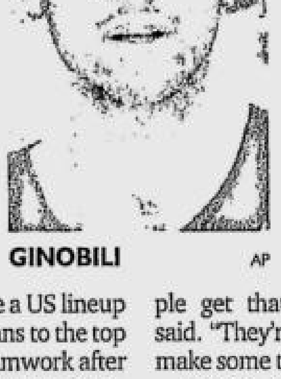

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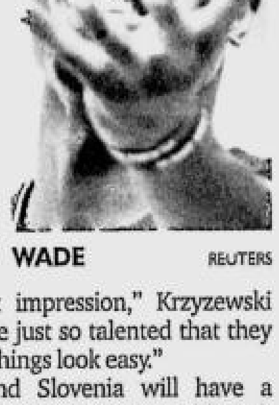

WADE REUTERS

LeBron James, Dwyane Wade and Carmelo Anthony will ignite a US lineup trying to return the Americans to the top with speed, defense and teamwork after they lost three times and were a disappointing third at the 2004 Athens Olympics.

"It's an honor to be part of this once again," said Anthony, a 2004 Olympian like James. "It's like a fresh start, a second chance. You don't get too many second chances in life and I want to take full advantage of this one."

US coach Mike Krzyzewski, a US college coaching legend at Duke University, marvels at the difference between NBA talent and other competitors.

"In the NBA, they take basketball to a whole other level, and I don't think people get that impression," Krzyzewski said. "They're just so talented that they make some things look easy."

France and Slovenia will have a handful of NBA players each, although the loss of Tony Parker to a broken right finger announced Friday will be a major blow to French title hopes.

Argentina and Spain have four NBA players in their lineups and NBA players such as Yao, Nowitzki, Gasol and Puerto Rico's Carlos Arroyo often spark top efforts by teammates.

Argentina and the Serbia have struggled in tune-up games, but exhibitions can be dubious indicators. Teams often try to learn about rivals while saving their best efforts for the tournament. *AFP*

Japan target: Stop Dirk

HIROSHIMA—JAPAN COACH ZELJKO PAVLICEVIC knows stopping Dirk Nowitzki is a tall order for his under-sized squad, but the Croatian has a strategy to stop the seven-foot forward. "It's difficult for teams in the NBA to stop Nowitzki when he is having a good day," Pavlicevic told reporters on Friday. "We will try to do something to stop him and stop the German team. "How we will try to do it? You will see tomorrow." Japan will be counting on a capacity crowd at Hiroshima's Green Arena to provide an emotional lift but even 10,000 raucous supporters may not be enough to tip the scales. *Reuters*

Parker out of this Worlds

SENDAI, JAPAN—SAN ANTONIO SPURS GUARD Tony Parker will not play for France in the World Championships after being diagnosed with a broken finger. Parker had X-rays on his right index finger in Japan on Thursday and was informed Friday it's broken. Parker injured his finger in a tune-up match against Brazil on Tuesday in China. He will be replaced on the roster by Mamoutou Diarra, said Fabrice Canet, the team's press officer. "He practiced on Thursday with his finger bandaged and was in some pain," said Canet. "He wanted to stay but will return to the United States at the request of the Spurs." France will open the World Championships on Saturday against Argentina. *AP*

Injury frustrates Yao

SAPPORO—CHINA'S YAO MING SAID ON FRIDAY he was frustrated that his injured left foot was taking so long to heal completely. The 7-foot-5 Houston Rockets center also lamented his lack of stamina on the eve of China's opening game of the World Championship against Italy. "The injury seems to be taking a long time to clear up," Yao told reporters after practice in Sapporo. "I am obviously not yet anywhere near my best form and stamina is still a problem." Yao broke his foot in an NBA game in April and China performed abysmally in his absence in a series of warm-up events before coming to Japan for the World Championships. *Reuters*

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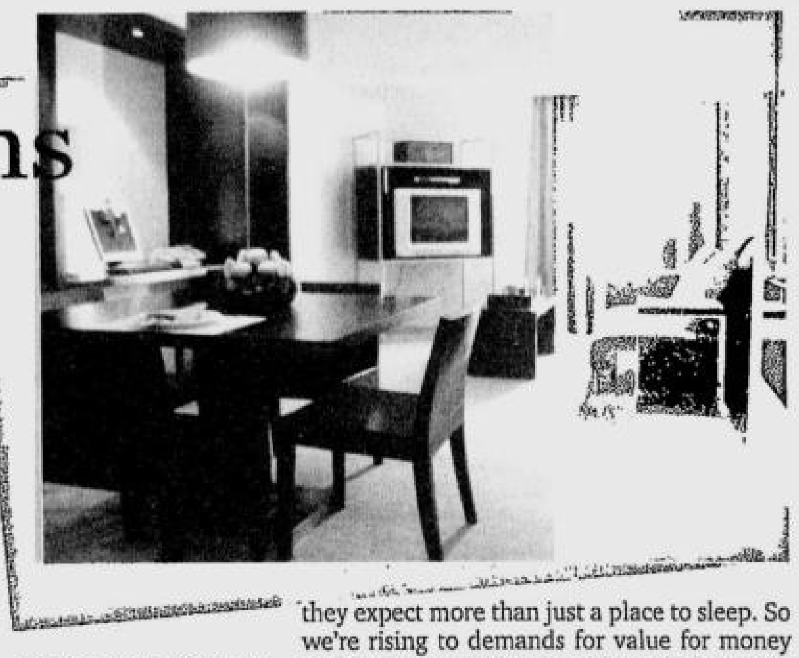

WATERFRONT CEBU CITY HOTEL & CASINO (WCCHC), the flagship property of Waterfront Hotels and Casinos, just broke ground with yet another refurbishment venture, the biggest in its recent succession of similar projects in the past two years: A P60-million room and suite enhancement project, which management aptly refers to as its "Bigger, Better and Newer Rooms Campaign". By the last quarter of 2006, the Hotel will re-open 226 newly renovated guest rooms and suites.

One hundred and seventy nine (179) Superior Rooms as well as sixteen (16) Junior Suites will be refurbished and revamped. Twenty (20) of the existing Standard Rooms will be upgraded into Superior Rooms and thirty six (36) existing Suite Rooms will be transformed into twenty-eight (29) Executive Suites, three (3) Bridal Suites and four (4) Family Suites.

For the extensive renovation of the suite rooms, Hotel Management turned to renowned and celebrated architect and interior designer Anton R. Mendoza, known for his smart and elegantly designed restaurants, condominiums, retail shops as well as landscaped open areas. The furniture is from the Philippine's internationally acclaimed furniture designer Kenneth Cobonpue. Fabrics were flown in from Spain, and bathroom fixtures were bought all the way from Italy. In addition to the guest room centerpiece -- a signature, ultra-comfortable bed dubbed the Slumber Splendor Bed -- a well-designed workspace, a flat panel television and new specific features for the special suites: Bridal, Family and Business, will further differentiate these new suite rooms.

General manager Marco Protacio shares, "Our customers are more sophisticated and they expect more than just a place to sleep. So we're rising to demands for value for money and aim to exceed expectations. We intend to deliver great style, design and functionality, all at an affordable room rate, with a high comfort quotient. Management is very excited with this opportunity to upgrade our product."

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For people who like great food and nice ambience, the City Garden Suites' Cafe Miranda Restaurant is the ideal place to go and share wonderful moments. Daily buffet breakfast is available for only P250 net from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. It offers international cuisine and fusion delectable from its menu, while the Bar provides famous and bestselling wines complemented with an array of refreshing beverages.

In addition, the hotel also upgraded its function rooms to be more sophisticated and make it attuned to current international trends.

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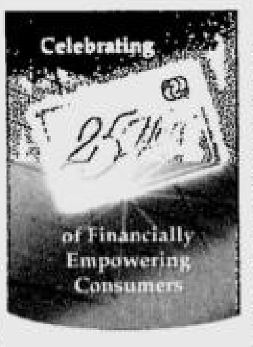
CCAP celebrates 25 years of empowering Filipino consumers



IN THIS DAY AND AGE, credit cards have become a standard means of paying for one's purchases. They give consumers the convenience of cash without the risks involved when carrying around huge amounts of money, and also enable the consumer to raise their buying capacity when needed. And with the Internet becoming the world's marketplace, consumers now have the power to shop in stores anywhere in the world, just by using their credit cards.

But convenience isn't the only thing that credit cards have to offer. Now, credit card companies try to distinguish their products from each other by offering to the consumer various rewards programs designed to meet a particular lifestyle.

But there is also another side to the convenience of charging credit cards, and that is when abused, cardholders may find themselves handling spending beyond their means, and facing unmanageable debt.

Because of this, the Credit Card Association of the Philippines (CCAP) has been actively promoting better credit management in its various campaigns. As it celebrates its 25th year with the theme "Financial Empowerment and Credit Responsibility", CCAP has launched various initiatives including an information-packed flyer distributed to all credit cardholders of its 15-member banks.

CCAP members include American Express, AIG, Bankard, BDO, BPI, Citibank, Equitable Card Network, East West Bank, HSBC, Metrobank Card Corp, One Card, International, PNB, SB Cards Corp, Standard Chartered and Unionbank of the Phils.

So how can one optimize the use of credit cards? Paying the outstanding balance or minimum amount due on time not only ensures that the consumer is not penalized, it also helps to maintain a healthy credit record, which is essential when applying for other cards or getting approval for a loan.

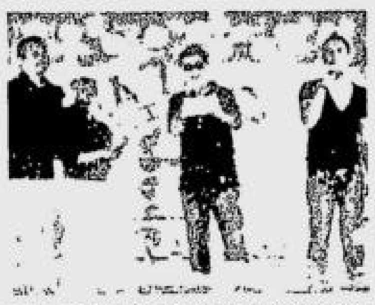
Applying for a card that is suited to one's needs and lifestyle is also another way to get the most out of a credit card. Since so many cards offer so many different features, it is best to apply for a card with features that will be relevant to you.

Credit cardholders should also treat their cards the way they would treat cash, to protect themselves from theft and fraud. CCAP is actively working together with the government, especially with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, to strengthen the law against the fraudulent use of credit cards, apprehend and penalize fraudsters, and protect the consumer. CCAP also encourages the consumer to make the necessary precautions to protect themselves.

The empowerment of the Filipino consumer by credit cards marks a new era in the credit card industry. With the right tools and education, Filipinos can now fully enjoy the benefits of credit cards and at the same time protect themselves from unnecessary difficulties faced when used improperly.

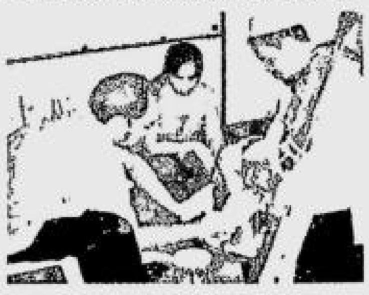
With over 50 credit card products in the market today, CCAP believes that the Filipino market will continue to enjoy and can look forward to a dynamic credit card industry in the years to come.

EXTRA JOSS EXTRA LA CASH GRAND RAFFLE PART 2



Extra Joss, the leading energy drink in powder form recently concluded its Extra Joss Extra La Cash Part 2 Promo through the Grand Raffle Draw held at the Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall Activity Center. This is Extra Joss' second year of thanking its loyal patrons by giving away millions of cash prizes. The lucky grand prize winner is Marcelo O. de Leon of Sta. Monica Novaliches, Quezon City. On the other hand, Brookeshields Gaston of Malaybalay City and Josefina C. Bontia of Pagadian City won the second and third prizes, respectively. Prizes include P1 million for 1st prize, P300,000 for 2nd prize, and P100,000 for the 3rd prize. The event was made even more exciting by the performances of popular celebrities, Katya Santos, Asia Agcaoili, Jose, and Wally. Photo shows (from left) Maret Yudianto, Extra Joss office manager; Lou Villamayor, BFAD representative; Francis Magalona; and Paolo Ballesteros announcing the grand prize winner.

ROTARY CLUB OF MANILA METRO'S WALK FOR LIFE



The Rotary Club of Manila Metro (RCMM), headed by its president, Manuel Wong and witnessed by its Past Presidents Yolanda Concepcion, Rizalito Concepcion and Hector Uy, recently visited the National Vocational Rehabilitation Center (NVRC) for the Rotary's "Walk for Life" project. The project supported NVRC's thrust of providing rehabilitation programs and services to persons with disabilities. The Rotary Club of Manila Metro gave away prosthesis to deserving beneficiaries of the NVRC, aiming to further enhance the quality of life of persons with disabilities through the donation of prosthesis. This project was the brainchild of Yolanda Concepcion eight years ago and continues to be one of RCMM's main programs this 2006. This effort is in relation to the rotary's thrust of continuous community service. Photo shows a lucky NVRC prosthesis beneficiary of the Rotary Club of Manila Metro who can soon walk for life.

TCP officials reelected

THE TRAVEL COOPERATIVE OF THE PHILIPPINES (TCP) REELECTED all its officials for tern beginning 2006, a vote of confidence for the precedent setting achievement of the pioneers of the organization billed as the first of its kind in the world, to be accredited by the International Air Transport Association (IATA). TCP chair and founding president Robert L. Joseph said the past TCP governing body composed of the reelected officials broke records which remain unmatched. He identified the IATA approval of the TCP as without precedent, the first time IATA has certified a cooperative to be full-pledged member. Those reelected are Joseph, as chairman of the board and COO, Angel R. Bognot, vice chair and CEO, Antonio Lim, treasurer, Ma. Duquesa Mallari, secretary, Pat Alcaraz, general manager and Mel E. Santos, assistant general manager. The TCP is accredited with the Cooperative Development Authority, under Cert. No. J=5232831 and has 17 founding members all over the country. The TCP may be visited at its website at travelcooperative@skynet.met or reached at its e-mail address admin@travelcoop.net.

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A new record has been set on just one full tank of Petron Xtra Unleaded.

PAL going public via 'backdoor' listing

Lucio Tan-owned Baguio Gold to buy 81.2% of flag carrier

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez and Riza T. Olchondra

FLAG CARRIER PHILIPPINE AIRLINES IS GOING public through a "backdoor listing" using Baguio Gold Holdings Corp., a company also owned by taipan Lucio Tan.

Baguio Gold said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange that it would acquire six Tan-owned companies that hold 81.2 percent of the flag carrier. The board of the publicly listed firm approved the move during its meeting Thursday.

The Tan-controlled companies holding the PAL shares are POL Holdings Inc., Cube Factor Holdings Inc., Ascot Holdings Inc., Sierra Holdings and Equities Inc., Network Holdings and Equities Inc. and Maxell Holdings Corp.

Baguio Gold will assume the liabilities of the six companies subject to the results of an ongoing audit of their accounts. A financial structure to clarify the acquisition may be ready before PAL holds its stockholders' meeting on Aug. 30.

Baguio Gold added that it would seek shareholder approval to beef up its authorized

PAL/ B2

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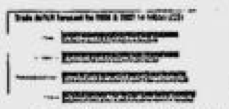
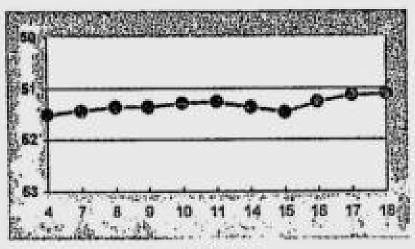
Abaca gets a lift from Malacañang /B3

Rice production seen exceeding target /B8



INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



AUGUST

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱51.115 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Aug. 18, 2006

¥115.86 = $1

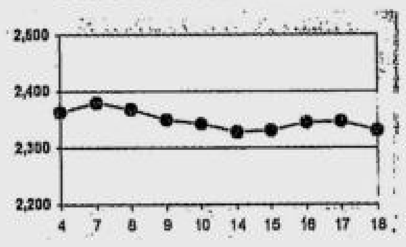
As of 3 p.m., Aug. 18, 2006

GOLD: $630.70-631.20

per ounce Hong Kong, Aug. 17, 2006

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B4)

Shares close lower

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 0.68-percent lower yesterday after three straight days of gains as investors chose to take profits in the absence of strong leads ahead of a long weekend, dealers said.

The composite index was down 16.06 points to 2,329.90, after moving between 2,320.09 and 2,345.96. The broader all-shares index fell 6.16 points to 1,441.34.

A total of 2.63 billion shares were traded worth P1.19 billion. Losers narrowly beat gainers 42 to 39, with 61 stocks unchanged.

Financial markets are closed Monday for a public holiday and trading will resume on Tuesday.

"No news is bad news," said Jose Vistan of AB Capital Securities, explaining the market's decline. "Investors are just waiting for things to happen after the earnings reporting season."

He said the market was also taking notice of recent US data suggesting a slowing US economy despite some relief from tame inflation figures earlier in the week which hinted the Federal Reserve could keep interest rates on hold.

However, investors picked up Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., which recovered from losses earlier in the week after Fitch Ratings upgraded its ratings for the company and rival Globe Telecom.

PLDT, the most actively traded stock, rose P5 to P1,980. Globe Telecom was steady at P1,020. *AFP*

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BUY A FORTUNER
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²10% DOWNPAYMENT ₱72,300 LOW MONTHLY ₱7,074 at 50% DP, 72 months
³10% LOW DOWNPAYMENT ₱76,300 LOW MONTHLY ₱7,729 at 50% DP, 72 months
⁴10% LOW DOWNPAYMENT ₱130,800 LOW MONTHLY ₱14,350 at 50% DP, 72 months
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² Altis **1.6 J** M/T
³ Innova **2.0 J** M/T
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TOYOTA
moving forward

Fitch upgrades rating for RP

Cites strengthening of monetary, exchange rate regime

By Doris C. Dumlao

LONDON-BASED CREDIT WATCHdog Fitch Ratings yesterday upgraded by one notch its Philippine "country ceiling," an assessment of risks and constraints on the foreign currency ratings of entities and transactions in a particular territory.

The country ceiling for the Philippines was raised by Fitch to BB+ from BB although the sovereign risk rating was kept at BB or two notches below the much coveted investment grade.

"Sovereign risk" refers to the risk that the government of a sovereign nation would default on debt obligations while country risk is a broader concept that relates to the risk to cross-border foreign currency lending and investment arising from events in a particular country, which are outside the control of the private sector.

The Philippines was among the 40 countries whose country ceilings have been upgraded out of 99 monitored by Fitch. The average "notch" uplift was about 50 basis points to a little over one notch above the sovereign foreign currency issuer rating.

"The upward revision to country ceilings since they were first assigned more than two years ago reflects greater liberalization of capital and exchange controls in many emerging market economies, such as Russia and Brazil; the strengthening of monetary and exchange rate regimes; and, the deepening integration of emerging markets in the global economy," Fitch explained in the re-rating report.

A potential country risk cited by Fitch was the imposition of foreign exchange controls by the government that prohibits the overseas transfer of foreign currency to service foreign debt, referred to as "transfer risk." Another is "convertibility risk"—the risk that the foreign exchange market will close.

Other forms of country risk cited by Fitch included sovereign intervention that materially impairs the creditworthiness of private sector entities, deposit freezes, punitive taxation and expropriation.

"Moreover, a country risk can also drive a systemic deterioration in creditworthiness across all agents in the domestic economy as a result of a severe economic and financial crisis, often manifested in currency maxi-devaluations, such as (what) occurred in the 1997-98 Asian crisis," Fitch said.

"In such situations, widespread private sector foreign debt default may occur even though the government has not imposed formal exchange controls and has itself not defaulted," the rating firm stressed.

Corporations, banks and structured transactions can only be rated above the sovereign long-term foreign currency rating up to the country ceiling if their stand-alone credit quality is judged to be sufficiently strong to withstand a sovereign debt crisis.

In the Philippines, telecommunication companies Globe Telecoms and Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. are rated by Fitch at par with the country ceiling and higher than the sovereign rating of BB.

"A country ceiling above the sovereign rating does not imply that the private sector as a whole is a better credit than the government. Rather it reflects a judgment that some especially strong entities will be able to survive the shock of a sovereign debt crisis and service their foreign debt obligations and will not be prevented from doing so by the imposition of capital controls or a formal moratorium," Fitch explained.

With its sovereign risk rating of two notches below investment grade, Fitch is currently the most optimistic on Philippine credit among major credit rating agencies. Standard & Poor's rates the sovereign debt at three notches below investment grade and Moody's at four notches below.

FIRST TIME SINCE 1977

PNCC pays ₱40M in toll fees

By Ronnel W. Domingo

STATE-RUN PHILIPPINE NATIONAL CONstruction Corp. has updated its payment of concession fees to the Tollways Regulatory Board for the first time since it was given a permit to operate in 1977.

PNCC spokesperson Madel Tacardon said the operator of and franchise holder for the North and South Luzon tollways recently paid to the TRB P40 million, which represented toll fees for this year.

"The updating of payment to TRB was made possible by the improving revenues from operations under the new PNCC administration," Tacardon said.

PNCC is undergoing a total debt restructuring program under which it is proposed that PNCC would gradually repay its debt to the national government throughout the term of the extended franchise period, the official said.

The toll operation agreement that PNCC—which in 1977 was known as Construction Development Corporation of the Philippines—entered into with the TRB, the company was to pay P912 million in toll concession fees for a period of 30 years.

The agreement also provided PNCC a franchise to develop tollways from Pangasinan to Quezon.

Tacardon said PNCC had been unable to pay TRB in view of the frequent deferral of toll fee increases in the past.

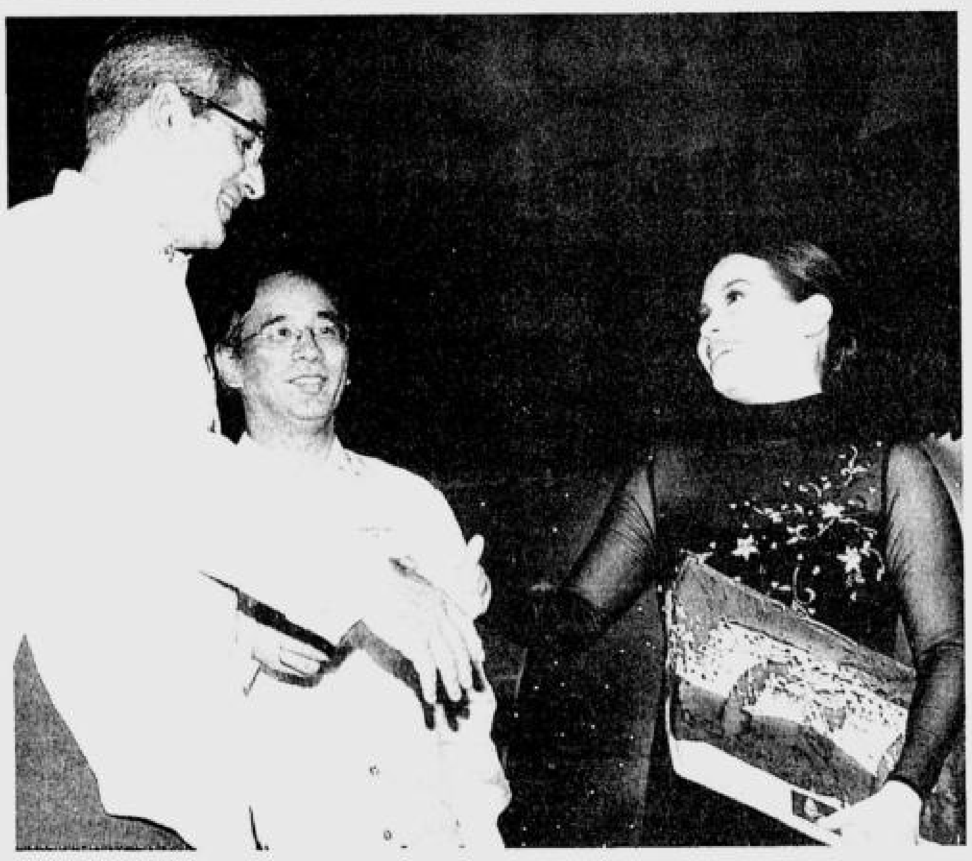
"Toll fee adjustments have been few and far between," Tacardon said. "Toll fees were raised for the first time in 1983, and then 13 years later in 1996."

Between 1991 and 1993, PNCC was partially disenfranchised from collecting toll fees for certain segments of the South Luzon Expressway and the North Luzon Expressway, resulting in revenue losses estimated at P300 million during the two-year period.

Tacardon said that because of those losses, PNCC accumulated penalties now amounting to some P2.1 billion for failure to pay TRB the concession fees.

Despite the limited resources over the past years, PNCC was able to pursue the extension of North Luzon Expressway up to Sta. Ines in Pampanga and continued to maintain and operate is toll roads without funding from the national government.

PNCC, whose revenues are derived mostly from construction projects and the collection of tollway fees, is also pursuing the expansion and rehabilitation of the SLEX through a joint-venture partner.



WORLD CLASS ACHIEVER
Ayala Corp. chair Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala (left) and Bank of the Philippine Islands president Aurelio Montinola III confer the BPI Pinoy Awards to celebrated Broadway star Lea Salonga during BPI's 155th anniversary celebration at Manila Hotel. RUDY ESPERAS

Online broker posts P8.7-M net profit

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

ONLINE BROKER CITISECONLINE.COM said it turned around its operations to a net profit of P8.7 million in the first half, from a loss of P1.5 million in the same period last year, due to the uptick in the stock market.

Consolidated revenues from commissions and the gain on the sale of financial assets grew 94 percent to P34 million in the first half from P17.4 million a year earlier.

Commission income increased by 144.6 percent to P22.8 million in 2006 due to the improvement in trading volume experienced during the period.

Interest income likewise rose 19 percent to P8.8 million in 2006 from P7.4 million in the same period last year.

Interest is derived from fixed-income investments made by both the parent firm and its Hong Kong subsidiary.

The realized gain on the sale of financial assets amounted to P1.6 million. This was due to gains made on the sale of stock and bond investments held by the company's subsidiary.

Expenses increased by 49 percent to P26.4 million in the first half from P17.7 million in the same period last year due largely to personnel costs.

Professional fees increased 266.9 percent to P1.7 million in the first half due to the renewal of consultancy agreements made in 2005 with marketing and public relations professionals.

CitisecOnline earlier approved the acquisition of a brokerage seat at the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE).

CitisecOnline's board on Tuesday approved the acquisition of the trading right—or what used to be called the brokerage seat—of inactive firm Mark Securities Corp. for P5 million. The last sale in the PSE valued a trading right at P3.5 million.

"We believe the industry is vibrant. The idea is not to operate the seat immediately, and to maintain (the business) relationship with Citisecurities until we can grow our customer base to a level, maybe double or triple, where it is more efficient to operate a seat," CitisecOnline vice president Juanis Barredo said.

CitisecOnline is targeting 1,000 clients this year and aims to triple this number to 3,000 next year.

CitisecOnLine said the proposed acquisition would make it a trading participant of the PSE.

CitisecOnline and stockbroker Citisecurities Inc. are two separate companies despite having some common shareholders. CitisecOnline currently trades with Citisecurities, making it a client of the latter.

CitisecOnline went public in July, raising P149.6 million from its maiden offering of 110 million shares at P1.36 each.

CitisecOnline will use bulk of the proceeds from its IPO to support new products it will launch in the next few months and upgrade its online trading technology.

PAL going public via 'backdoor listing'

From page B1

capital stock to P20 billion from P400 million to accommodate the acquisition program. It plans to hold its own stockholders' meeting on Sept. 19.

Trading of Baguio Gold shares was suspended yesterday pending the release of more details about the acquisition.

The government owns 4 percent of PAL through Land Bank of the Philippines, Development Bank of the Philippines and the AFP-Retirement and Separation Benefits System (AFP-RSBS). Employees own a little more than one percent while the rest is distributed among private shareholders.

Eagle Equities president Joseph Roxas said PAL's upcoming backdoor listing would give a clearer picture on how airlines should be valued. As of today, investors buy into an airline through JG Summit Holdings, the Gokongwei-controlled conglomerate that owns Cebu Pacific.

PAL has turned in profits during the past two years. In its last fiscal year ending March 31, net earnings surged 63 percent to $28.7 million from $17.6 million the year before due to higher passenger revenues. PAL posted a turnaround in its fiscal year ending March 2005 after posting $11.8 million in losses in 2004.

PAL CEO and president Jaime Bautista said in a phone interview that the airline was awaiting developments on Baguio Gold's move since the transactions would be between the listed holding company and the six companies with shareholdings in PAL.

Bautista had said in July that the flag carrier would consider an initial public offering as early as 2008 if it could sustain a three-year profitability streak as required by the PSE.

However, he said the airline was considering other means of raising capital without undertaking an IPO, such as the sale of secondary shares through a publicly listed majority owner, which in this case would be Baguio Gold.

PAL needs money to finance its fleet expansion program.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of August 18, 2006)

NAME	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.5	5.7	5.5	5.7	9,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	32.5	33.5	32.5	33	1,062,300
Bank of the Phil. Islands	53.5	53.5	53	53.5	1,753,000
China Banking Corp.	700	705	700	700	800
Citystate Savings Bank	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	600
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.39	0.4	0.39	0.39	850,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	83	83	82.5	83	84,400
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	38	38.5	37.5	38	413,000
Philippine National Bank	34	34	34	34	2,300
Phil. Savings Bank	42	42	42	42	5,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	17	17	17	17	2,800
Security Bank Corp.	48.5	48.5	48.5	48.5	133,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	45	45.5	45	45.5	3,200
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Bankard Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	10,000
Citisecontine.Com Inc.	1.84	1.84	1.84	1.84	439,000
First Metro Invest. Corp	30	30.5	30	30.5	12,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1625	1625	1625	1625	300
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2000	2030	2000	2030	4,780
Ivantage Corp.	1.34	1.34	1.32	1.32	2,540,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	43	43	43	43	29,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp	42.5	42.5	42	42.5	516,100
Manila Electric Co. A	16.25	16.25	16	16.25	97,000
Manila Electric Co. B	25.5	25.5	25	25.5	110,700
Manila Water Co. Inc.	9	9.2	9	9.2	11,231,000
Petron Corp.	4.15	4.2	4.1	4.2	2,096,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.94	250,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	29,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	23.25	23.25	23.25	23.25	29,500
Jollibee Foods Corp.	34	34	33.5	34	219,100
Rfm Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.78	0.8	610,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	3.75	3.8	3.75	3.75	2,346,000
San Miguel Corp. A	64.5	64.5	64	64.5	58,600
San Miguel Corp. B	74	74	72.5	73.5	57,600
Universal Robina Corp.	18.25	18.5	17.75	18.25	7,177,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	5,490,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	320,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.64	1.64	1.64	1.64	449,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.8	4.85	4.8	4.85	466,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	2.6	3.1	2.6	3.1	20,000
Republic Cement Corp.	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	200,000
CHEMICALS					
Corro-Coat Inc.	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	2,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.55	0.56	0.52	0.54	67,760,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.08	0.09	0.08	0.09	14,800,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Asia Amalgamated Holdings	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	400,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	35,000,000
Ayala Corp.	420	422.5	417.5	420	149,890
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.52	0.53	0.52	0.53	280,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5	5	4.95	5	80,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.034	0.034	0.032	0.032	39,400,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.86	1.86	1.84	1.84	266,000
Apc Group Inc.	0.27	0.32	0.26	0.32	85,900,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0085	0.0085	0.008	0.008	13,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.94	0.98	0.94	0.97	520,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	1.04	1.1	1.04	1.1	200,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	9,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	992,000
Dmci Holdings Inc.	4.25	4.25	4.2	4.2	310,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	2.8	2.8	2.65	2.65	640,000
House of Investments Inc.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	130,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc	5.9	6	5.9	6	651,000
Medco Holdings	0.195	0.195	0.19	0.19	640,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	10,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	120,000
Pacifica	0.015	0.016	0.014	0.014	132,700,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.185	0.19	0.185	0.19	6,920,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	200,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.135	0.155	0.135	0.15	94,660,000
SM Investments Corp.	216	216	212	212	79,990
South China Resources Inc	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87	100,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.14	0.145	0.135	0.135	16,290,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	2,100,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	13	13.25	13	13	5,980,500
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	60,000
Belle Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.02	1.02	6,234,000
Cityland Development Corp	1.44	1.44	1.42	1.42	26,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.33	0.38	0.33	0.37	10,400,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	2.18	2.26	2.18	2.24	622,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	100,000
Elb Realty Developers Inc	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	30,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	2,840,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.05	0.055	0.049	0.0525	36,200,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.4	1.42	1.38	1.42	3,511,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.135	0.145	0.13	0.145	9,620,000
Gotesco Land Inc.B	0.145	0.15	0.135	0.15	1,390,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.48	2.48	2.4	2.4	150,000
Interport Res.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	23,000,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.235	0.235	0.23	0.23	170,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.66	1.66	1.64	1.64	21,254,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.235	0.235	0.23	0.23	1,590,000
Mrc Allied Ind. Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.28	100,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	11.75	12	11.75	12	812,700
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.42	0.43	0.42	0.43	1,100,000
SM Development Corp.	1.74	1.74	1.72	1.74	1,130,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8	8	7.8	7.8	3,453,000
Suntrust Home Dev. Inc.	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.57	80,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.0925	0.0925	0.0925	0.0925	1,000,000
SERVICE					
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp	17	17	17	17	4,500
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp	1.1	1.12	1.1	1.1	239,000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc	1.3	1.32	1.28	1.3	4,219,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	1020	1020	1015	1020	59,210
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.75	3.8	3.7	3.75	2,959,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1965	1985	1945	1980	74,350
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.19	0.2	0.19	0.2	13,090,000
Imperial Res.	0.023	0.023	0.019	0.019	257,600,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.055	0.0575	0.0525	0.0575	19,700,000
Ism Communications Corp.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	12,500,000
Transpacific Broadband	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	210,000
Philweb Corp.	0.03	0.031	0.03	0.03	143,800,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	111,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	14.75	15	14.75	14.75	317,700
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	90,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	1,652,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.52	1.56	1.5	1.54	4,224,000
Philippine Racing Club	3	3	3	3	10,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.49	0.49	230,000
EDUCATION					
Ipeople Inc	2.9	2.9	2.85	2.85	9,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	2.08	2.22	2.08	2.22	756,000
Paxys Inc.	10.5	10.5	10.25	10.5	2,533,900
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	4.8	4.9	4.7	4.85	1,925,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	4.85	4.95	4.75	4.95	585,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.008	0.008	0.0075	0.0075	152,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	7.7	8.2	7.6	8.1	2,348,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.92	2	1.92	2	205,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	9,480,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.3	1,590,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.021	0.021	0.02	0.021	376,900,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	157,100,000
Omico Corp.	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	94,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	4.2	4.2	4.05	4.1	3,834,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	4.25	4.25	4.15	4.2	2,036,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	26	26	25.5	26	15,300
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.57	0.58	0.57	0.58	630,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.56	0.56	0.55	0.55	510,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated, Inc.	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	160,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	541,100,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	139,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	465,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	326,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	12.75	13.25	12.75	13	216,700
PREFERRED					
Ayala Corp. Pref. B	104	104	104	104	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	17.25	17.25	17.25	17.25	180,000

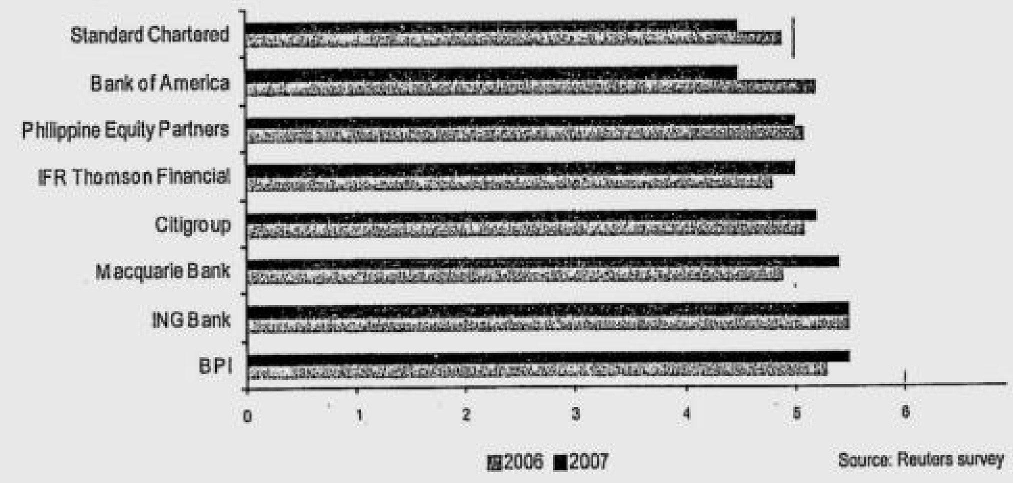
CURRENCIES

August 18, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.779484	1.000000	51.1330
Japan	Yen	0.006720	0.008621	0.4408
United Kingdom	Pound	1.469249	1.884900	96.3806
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.100250	0.128611	6.5763
Switzerland	Franc	0.632133	0.810964	41.4670
Canada	Dollar	0.694541	0.891027	45.5609
Singapore	Dollar	0.495319	0.635445	32.4922
Australia	Dollar	0.594753	0.763009	39.0149
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.067707	2.652661	135.6385
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.207851	0.266652	13.6347
Brunei	Dollar	0.493751	0.633433	32.3893
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000086	0.000110	0.0056
Thailand	Baht	0.020715	0.026575	1.3589
UAE	Dirham	0.212232	0.272272	13.9221
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.282900	65.5985
Argentina	Peso	0.253697	0.325468	16.6422
Brazil	Real	0.365955	0.469484	24.0061
Denmark	Kroner	0.134045	0.171966	8.7931
India	Rupee	0.016813	0.021570	1.1029
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.212394	0.272480	13.9327
Mexico	New Peso	0.072282	0.092730	4.7416
New Zealand	Dollar	0.500439	0.642013	32.8281
Norway	Kroner	0.123826	0.158856	8.1228
Pakistan	Rupee	0.012919	0.016574	0.8475
South Africa	Rand	0.115104	0.147667	7.5507
Korea	Won	0.000811	0.001041	0.0532
Sweden	Kroner	0.109004	0.139841	7.1505
Syria	Pound	0.015016	0.019264	0.9850
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023900	0.030661	1.5678
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000363	0.000466	0.0238

RP growth seen to carry on in '07

Economists cite 'resilient economy' in the face of oil price risks

GDP growth forecast for 2006 & 2007 (in percent)



Source: Reuters survey

HEALTHY EXPORTS AND STRONG REMITTANCES from Filipino workers overseas will support economic growth in the Philippines this year, and the expansion should continue into 2007, a Reuters quarterly poll shows.

But risks remain from high crude oil prices which, if sustained, could clip growth as consumers scrimp on spending.

The median forecast in the quarterly poll was for the economy to grow 5.3 percent this year, faster than the 5.0 percent recorded in 2005.

Growth in 2007 was forecast to be 5.5 percent.

The 2006 growth forecast was higher than the 4.9 percent estimate in a similar poll in April, but still below the government's target range of 5.5 percent to 6.2 percent.

"We are seeing a very resilient economy," said Cecilia Tanchoco, an economist at Bank of the Philippine Islands. "Of course, there is still the risk of oil prices going up, but so far consumer spending is holding up because of remittances."

Inflows from overseas workers in the first six months of the year totaled $6 billion, 15.4 percent more than in the same period last year.

Exports have also been strong, showing double-digit percentage increases since February, and President Macapagal-Arroyo has said overseas sales could rise at least 15 percent this year, above a government goal of 10 percent.

Exports grew 4 percent in 2005.

But economists said exports, especially the country's electronics shipments, were likely to soften in the second half amid signs of slower growth in the United States, one of the country's top export markets.

Higher government spending should help the economy in 2007.

The Philippines' fiscal health has improved, with its budget deficit of P31.5 billion ($617 million) in the first half of 2006 just a third of its target.

The government expects to post a below-target deficit for the second year in a row, partly due to lower spending and increased tax revenues.

It plans to use its improved finances to increase spending on infrastructure in 2007 after years of restraint have capped capital expenditure at around 2 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP), the lowest in the region.

The economists who participated in the Reuters poll forecast that inflation would be relatively high in 2006 at 7.0 percent but, sharing the authorities' optimism, they see it falling to 5.1 percent next year.

Reuters

STRONG FIBER
A worker carries abaca fiber to a warehouse in Legaspi City. Abaca products are one of the chief industries of the fertile Bicol region, where residents turn the fiber into various handicrafts. AFP

Abaca gets a lift from Malacañang

By Ronnel W. Domingo

FURNITURE AND HANDICRAFT MAKERS were able to heave a collective sigh after Malacañang lifted a ban on the trade of abaca—a key material in the export products of small and medium enterprises.

The ban went into effect after Executive Order No. 502 was issued late February. The administration at that time was trying to prevent the spread of diseases that affect young abaca leafsheats, which manufacturers use in about two-fifths of home furnishings sent abroad, the Department of Trade and Industry said.

On July 4, EO 536 was issued which effectively lifted the ban.

Trade Secretary Peter B. Favila said the government decided to lift the ban due to the disruption in the supply of raw materials, that led to losses for those involved in the furniture, furnishings and handicraft industry.

Favila added that there would be no threat to the general public as the present supplies of abaca were cultivated in disease-free areas.

Also, the trade chief said the public-private sector Export Development Council, which Favila chairs, had initiated a multisectoral, long-term approach to address the problem of the abaca disease so that a sustained supply of the leaves would be ensured.

In an earlier statement, the Philippine Exporters Confederation said that, with the lifting of the ban, furniture exporters could yet avoid a downturn in their earnings.

Philexport president Sergio Ortiz-Luis Jr. said that disease control, not a total ban, would be the more appropriate solution to abaca infestation, adding that "a total ban is one, simple, lazy solution, and it is also a killer solution."

Entrepreneurs engaged in making furniture, home décor, footwear, and holiday décor use abaca as raw material for their products.

Industry figures show that furniture exports account for some $500 million worth of shipments a year, of which about $80 million contain abaca.

Psalm to auction Transco on Nov. 7

By Abigail L. Ho

THE POWER SECTOR ASSETS and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM) will auction off the 25-year concession to run the country's power transmission grid, its fourth attempt to privatize the National Transmission Corp.'s facility since 2003.

PSALM vice president for finance Nonito Bernardo Jr. yesterday said in a statement that pre-qualified bidders should submit their respective technical and financial proposals on that date.

Only prospective investors who had met the July 18 deadline for the submission of letters of intent to bid for the Transco concession, and those that had paid the required participation fee and had secured transaction documents, would be allowed to participate in the pre-qualification process, Bernardo said.

PSALM would then announce the pre-qualified bidders shortly after that and hold a pre-bid conference in mid-October to allow the bidders to raise any questions they might have regarding the proposed sale procedures, as well as the terms and conditions for the Transco concession, he added.

To pre-qualify, a potential bidder should have a member or affiliate with a net asset value or market capitalization of at least $500 million.

For interested foreign firms, they have to enter into partnerships with Filipino entities to enable them to comply with the 60-40 equity rule under the Constitution.

PSALM will require the winning bidder for the 25-year concession to secure a congressional franchise to operate the transmission firm.

Last month, PSALM said 12 firms had expressed interest in bidding for Transco. The firms included San Miguel Corp., Metro Pacific Corp. and Concepcion Industries.

The state-owned power grid was valued by Australian consulting firm Sinclair Knight Merzas at $2.6 billion. But the facility is estimated to need $2.5 billion over the next 10 years for maintenance and upgrades.

With a report from Reuters

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August to November 2006
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August 5 (Saturday), **September 1** (Friday), **October 14** (Saturday) and **November 3** (Friday)

MCLE Credit Hours	Subject
Three (3) Units 8:00 to 11:00 AM	**A Survey of Supreme Court Decisions on Commercial Law in 2005** (Updates on Jurisprudence) -- Rafael A. Morales
Three (3) Units 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM	**Back to Basics in Ethics** (Legal Ethics) -- Mia G. Gentugaya
Three (3) Units 3:00 to 6:00 PM	**A Legal Perspective – Opportunities, Challenges and Risks for Foreign Investors in the Philippine Mining Industry** (MCLE-prescribed subject: Land and Economics) -- Marilyn A. Victorio-Aquino

August 12 (Saturday), **September 8** (Friday), **October 7** (Saturday) and **November 10** (Friday)

MCLE Credit Hours	Subject
Three (3) Units 8:00 to 11:00 AM	**Update on Labor Law: Recent Jurisprudence, Laws, Rules and Regulations** (Updates on Laws & Jurisprudence) -- Dante T. Pamintuan
Three (3) Units 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM	**Rules and Cases on Bar Discipline** (Legal Ethics) -- Ramon G. Songco
Three (3) Units 3:00 to 6:00 PM	**Foreign Investments in the Philippines** (MCLE-prescribed subject: Transnational Business Transactions) -- Rocky L. Reyes

August 19 (Saturday), **September 15** (Friday), **October 28** (Saturday) and **November 17** (Friday)

MCLE Credit Hours	Subject
Four (4) Units 8:00 to 12:00 AM	**Pleading Writing and Oral Advocacy** -- Carlos Roberto Z. Lopez
Three (3) Units 1:00 to 4:00 PM (Civil) 3:00 to 6:00 PM (Tax)	**A Survey of Supreme Court Decisions on Civil Law** (August and October) -- Philbert E. Varona **Update on Taxation: Recent Jurisprudence, Laws, Rules and Regulations** (September and November) -- Carina C. Laforteza
Two (2) Units 4:00 to 6:00 PM (A) 1:00 AM to 3:00 PM (B)	**Problem Areas and Issues Affecting Philippine Construction Arbitration** (Alternative Dispute Resolution) -- Emmanuel M. Lombos [A -- August and October; B -- September and November]

August 26 (Saturday), **September 22** (Friday), **October 21** (Saturday) and **November 24** (Friday)

MCLE Credit Hours	Subject
Four (4) Units 8:00 to 12:00 AM	**Trial and Pre-Trial Skills in Civil and Maritime Cases** (Trial and Pre-Trial Skills) -- Anthony W. Dee & Domingo G. Castillo
Two (2) Units 1:00 to 3:00 PM	**Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights** (International Law) – Vicente B. Amador
Three (3) Units 3:00 to 6:00 PM	**Alternative Dispute Resolution in the Philippines** – Ricardo Ma. P.G. Ongkiko

(1) (a) Attendance at more than 2 days of sessions or the full course of 4 days: P10,000
(b) Attendance at no more than 2 days of sessions. P6,000
(c) Attendance at no more than 1 day of sessions: P3,000
(d) Attendance at any lecture will be considered attendance for a full day session for purposes of the registration fee
(e) Registrants for the full course have the option to pre-select their attendance days within August to November
(f) For the full course, (i) a 10% discount will be given to early registrants (those who register and pay on or before **August 25** (for September, or a combination of seminar dates starting in September), **September 22** (for October, or a combination of seminar dates starting in October) and **October 20** (for November, or a combination of seminar dates starting in November), clients of the Firm, SyCip alumni, and government employees, and (ii) a 15% discount for a group of 10 or more participants who shall register and pay simultaneously. In case more than one type of discount is applicable, only one type of discount can be availed of.
(2) The Registration Fee includes morning and afternoon snacks, lunch, lecture materials, and the MCLE Certificate of Attendance.
(3) Payment should be in cash or check payable to SyCip Salazar Hernandez & Gatmaitan. Except for the early registrants, all check payments must be delivered at least 5 working days prior to the date of the first lecture to the SyCip Salazar Hernandez & Gatmaitan Office, 4th Floor 105 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City.
(4) We reserve the right to reschedule any or all of the lectures if warranted by reasons beyond our control.

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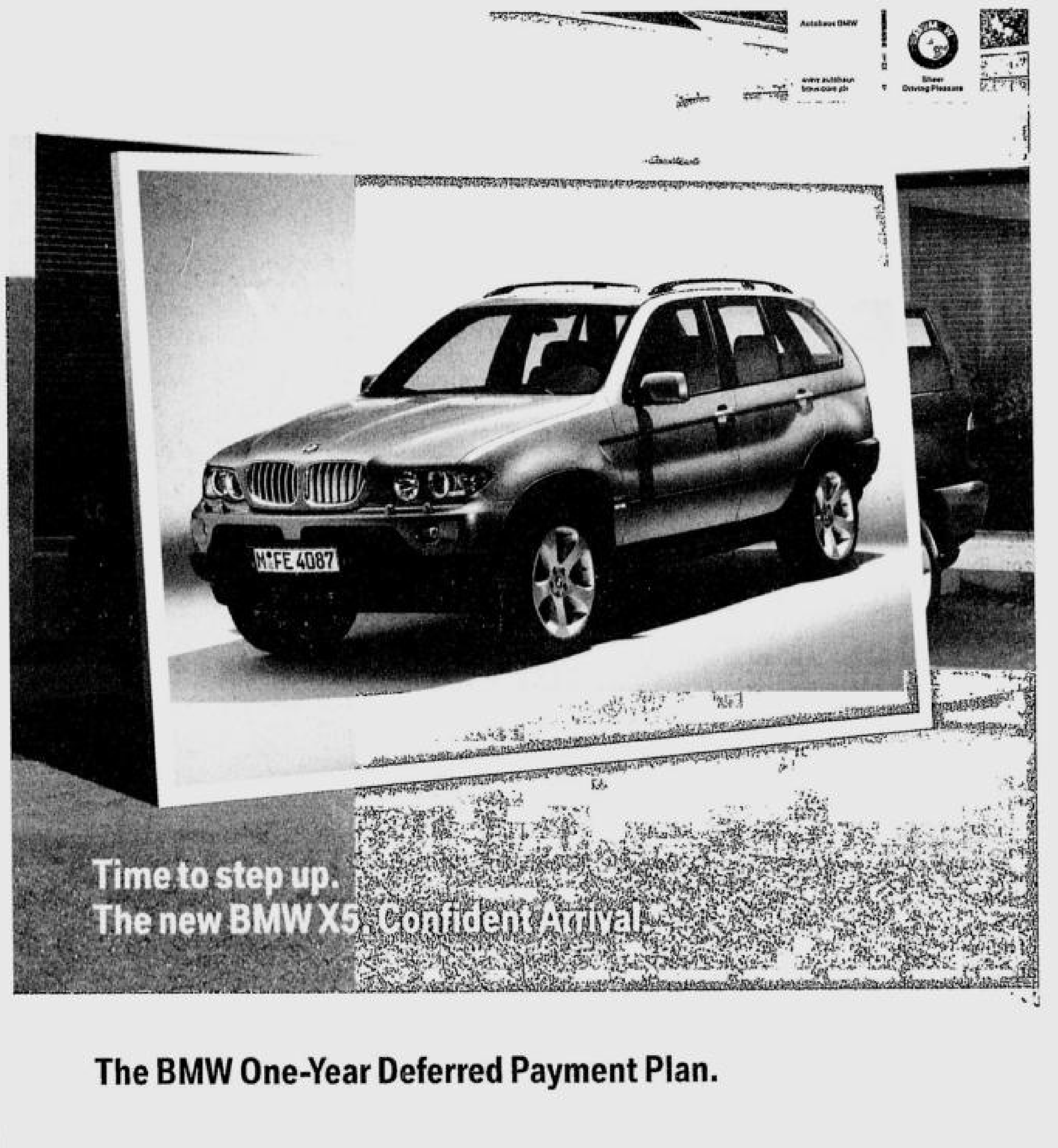
For more information, please call Ms Joyce L. Rozul at 817-98-11 to 20 or send your inquiries by fax to 817-38-96, or mcle@syciplaw.com.



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Japan's Nikkei scores strong week; copper up

SINGAPORE—TOKYO SHARES climbed on Friday to score their third best week of the year on hopes the United States will escape a growth-sapping interest rate rise.

Copper jumped as a strike in Chile shut in 8 percent of world copper output and the euro struck a record high against the yen on forecasts for higher interest rates the euro zone.

Gold hit a three-week low and energy shares dropped as investors eyed cheaper oil, but Tokyo's benchmark Nikkei average rose 0.5 percent to within a few points of Thursday's three-month high, ending 3.48 percent higher over the past five working days.

London shares were expected to open about flat, in line with Hong Kong's Hang Seng and MSCI's index of non-Japan Asian shares, but Asian technology shares were strong for a second day on hopes for continued strong US demand.

"In the next half-year, IT consumption is going to increase, so most investors expect earnings to be better than in the first half," said Cho Seong-joon, an analyst at Meritz Securities in Seoul.

MSCI's non-Japan IT index rose 0.4 percent. Tokyo Electron was up 2.9 percent and among the biggest single contributors to the Nikkei's rise.

Energy stocks continued lower. Chinese offshore oil producer CNOOC fell 1.7 percent and was the biggest drag on Hong Kong's Hang Seng.

Crude oil actually recovered 50 cents a barrel on renewed worries about Iran's nuclear program, after falling to $70 overnight, but it remained down about $4 on the week on fading supply worries.

Gold dipped to a three-week low of $612.60 an ounce and Tokyo gold futures dropped by their daily limit as US inflation worries faded in the face of weaker crude.

Copper jumped about 2 percent to $7,450/$7,500, on news that a strike had paralysed BHP Billiton's Escondida mine in Chile. The operation is the biggest copper mine in the world.

The euro climbed as high as 148.90 yen its highest level since the single currency was launched in 1999, as investors eyed widening interest rate differentials between the euro zone and Japan.

The dollar steadied as investors eyed the Philadelphia Fed's index of business conditions in the US Mid-Atlantic region, which climbed in August to the highest level since April 2005.

Traders said the data did not change the view in the market that the Fed may have finished with its two-year run of credit tightening, keeping investors reluctant to chase the dollar much higher.

The dollar was at 115.82 yen and euro was at $1.2838 off a two-month high of $1.2913 hit last week.

Earlier this week the dollar fell across the board this week after reports on producer and consumer prices and housing came in weaker than expected.

US stocks closed a touch higher. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 0.1 percent and the Nasdaq Composite Index was up 0.4 percent. *Reuters*

A PEDESTRIAN passes by an electric stock prices board in Tokyo. Japanese stocks edged higher Friday following a third straight day of gains on Wall Street.
AP

Asia-Pacific economies on track for '06, poll says

SINGAPORE—MANY ASIA-PACIFIC economies will grow faster this year than anticipated just a few months ago as robust exports and investment offset higher borrowing costs and signs of a US slowdown, a quarterly Reuters poll showed.

Inflation estimates for 2006 have been revised lower or kept unchanged in more than half of the countries polled.

But higher inflation is expected in India, Australia, New Zealand and Thailand, which suggests monetary policy in those countries would remain biased towards tightening.

"We have had a fantastic six months in Asia and the latter six months will start to see some signs of moderation," said Joseph Tan, an economist at Standard Chartered.

"As we move into 2007, there are some risks. Even though there is going to be a moderation, there will be a reasonable pace of growth, which is why people are still upbeat here." Economists were polled across the region, excluding Japan.

The results meant upward revisions for 2006 growth forecasts for China, New Zealand, Singapore, Hong Kong and the Philippines compared with the last survey in April.

Growth faster than expected

Expectations for growth in India, Asia's fourth-largest economy, remained at 7.5 percent for the fiscal year to March 2007, not too far from the blistering 8.4 percent in 2005/06.

Australian growth is forecast to continue strong in the year to next June at 3.5 percent, as forecast in the April poll.

The forecast for South Korea's economy was a touch lower than in the April poll but growth was still expected to be the strongest in four years at 5.0 percent.

Economists lowered their forecasts for gross domestic product (GDP) growth in Thailand and Indonesia, although both Southeast Asian economies were expected to rebound next year, with Indonesia expected to benefit from continuing interest rate cuts.

Trade positions in some countries, such as India, were expected to deteriorate, partly due to costly oil imports.

Analysts forecast a $62 billion Indian trade deficit for 2006/07, wider than April's projection of $59.1 billion. The deficit in 2005/06 was $51.6 billion.

A slowdown is also forecast for South Korea, Singapore and Hong Kong. India and Taiwan are expected to slow, but only marginally. The 2007 estimates for Singapore and Korea were revised down from April.

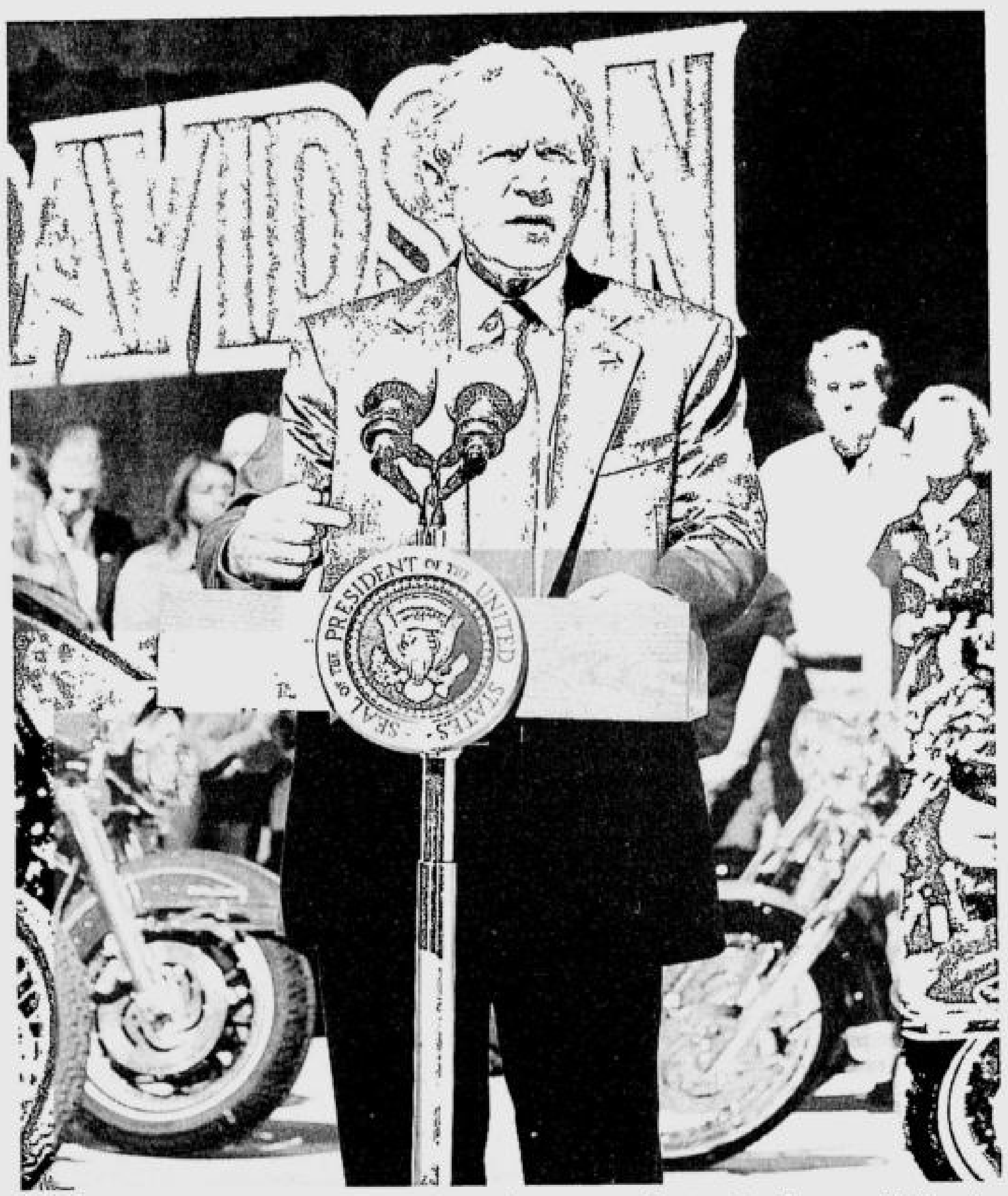
Malaysia is expected to have steady GDP growth but economic activity in New Zealand, the Philippines and Indonesia was forecast to pick up speed. Thailand's economy is expected to pick up next year but at a slower pace than anticipated by analysts in April.

"Since many were expecting the US economy to slow, they were expecting Asia to slow as well," Auster said. "But what is now clear is that China is really the growth driver for Asia and as long as Chinese growth remains pretty strong, the rest of Asia is well supported."

Inflation forecasts for 2006 were revised higher in four of the 12 Asia-Pacific countries surveyed.

Thailand's 2006 inflation forecast was revised up to 5.0 percent from 4.5 percent in the April poll, much higher than the five-year average of 2.3 percent.

"If you look across Asia, those countries that are more vulnerable to oil price increases are seeing higher inflation. India is one of them, Thailand is another." *Reuters*



US PRESIDENT George W. Bush remarks on the economy after touring the assembly line at the Harley-Davidson assembly plant in York, Pennsylvania.

Bush huddles with economic team as US growth slows

WASHINGTON—PRESIDENT GEORGE W. Bush will wrap up conferring with his economic team on Friday on ways to keep the economy growing against a backdrop of higher interest rates, mixed data and fears of rising inflation.

His closed-door meetings with new Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson, Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez and Director of the National Economic Council Allan Hubbard, began on Thursday evening at the Camp David presidential retreat.

"The President and his economic team will be talking about the general macroeconomic picture and job growth," White House spokesperson Dana Perino said.

"They will discuss the budget both as a short-term and as a long-term entitlement spending issue," she said. "And they will focus on financial markets and pro-growth tax policy."

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office on Thursday forecast the government budget deficit would rise to $286 billion in fiscal 2007, up from $260 billion this year.

The economy will likely be a theme during the election, in which Democrats are vying to retake control of the House of Representatives and Senate.

Democrats argue that mid-income Americans have suffered under Republican control of both the White House and Congress.

Several indicators have shown a mixed economic picture, including the gross domestic product expanding at an annual clip of 2.5 percent in the second quarter, much slower than the brisk 5.6 percent pace in the first three months of 2006.

The unemployment rate also rose unexpectedly in July to 4.8 percent and the hot housing market has cooled, but wages and prices have continued to rise.

As a result, the Federal Reserve last week left benchmark interest rates unchanged at 5.25 percent after two years of increases aimed at keeping inflation in check. *Reuters*

Malaysia unveils economic blueprint

KUALA LUMPUR—MALAYSIA UNveiled on Friday a 15-year blueprint to attain developed country status but its target of 6.3 percent average economic growth falls short of the pace the government previously said was needed to meet that goal.

Malaysia said it must develop its manufacturing and services sectors as other Asian exporters, such as China and Vietnam, eclipse its role as a manufacturing hub.

"Malaysia's competitive position is being challenged by emerging economies," the government said in its Third Industrial Master Plan, which covers the years 2006 to 2020.

"Malaysia needs to increase the availability of skilled and knowledge workers, strengthen R&D capabilities and improve technological readiness, telecommunications and government delivery system."

But the average growth target is less than the 7 percent the government earlier said was necessary to take Malaysia to developed nation status by 2020.

From 1996 to 2005, the Southeast Asian economy grew 4.6 percent a year on average, below the 7.9 percent forecast by the government in a plan for 1996-2005.

Malaysia's growth last touched the 7-percent mark in 2004, when the economy expanded by 7.1 percent.

With its competitive advantage eroding, trade-driven Malaysia is racing to find new sources of growth. It is pushing manufacturers up the value chain as it develops the services and agriculture sectors.

Manufacturing and services together make up about 90 percent of Malaysian gross domestic product.

The blueprint targets manufacturing sectors such as electronics, medical devices, textiles, machinery, petrochemicals, drugs and food-processing.

Services growth will focus on business and professional services, tourism, education, health and technology.

The plan also earmarked biotechnology, nanotechnology, radio frequency identification, wireless technology, photonics, fuel cell and laser technology for development.

Malaysia added it wanted to encourage mergers and acquisitions between local firms and multinational companies.

In the past two decades, Malaysia has grown from an agricultural backwater into an electronics manufacturing player that houses firms such as Intel Corp., Motorola , Western Digital and Dell.

But it wants greater wealth for ethnic Malays and indigenous people, known as "bumiputra."

They still lag ethnic Chinese despite a national policy to boost bumiputra business ownership, employment and education.

Bumiputras had the highest poverty level at 8.3 percent and lowest mean monthly gross household income in manufacturing at 2,905 ringgit ($791) in 2004, data showed.

The plan will push for greater bumiputra participation in the manufacturing and services sector, the government said.

The government also vowed to keep the ringgit stable. *Reuters*

Tightening, global slowdown to cool China economic growth

BEIJING—THE JUGGERNAUT THAT IS CHINA's economy might finally slow a bit next year as recently introduced tightening steps bite and the trade surplus dips in response to slowing US growth, a Reuters quarterly poll shows.

Economists expect gross domestic product growth to slow to 9.2 percent in 2007 from 10.4 percent this year. That compares with 9.9 percent in 2005.

"There are different views on whether the economy is overheating, but the economy is certainly roaring ahead and it's not easy to apply the brakes to it," said Xiao Minjie, an economist at Daiwa Institute of Research in Shanghai.

China, riding a boom in exports and fixed-asset investment in factories, roads and apartments, has repeatedly defied expectations of a slowdown.

As recently as last October's poll, economists were forecasting a slowdown in GDP growth to 8.6 percent this year.

In the event, the economy grew 10.9 percent in the first half compared with a year earlier, buoyed by a surprisingly strong rate of 11.3 percent in the second quarter—the fastest clip in more than a decade.

The central bank raised lending rates in April for the first time in 18 months and followed up with two increases in banks' required reserves. The government has also conducted new clampdowns on investment in hot sectors such as property.

Ben Simpfendorfer, an economist at Royal Bank of Scotland in Hong Kong, expects GDP growth to ease as the trade surplus narrows—the result of a modest slowdown in global growth—and the impact of restrictive policies is felt.

"The fact that they've tightened preemptively is a good step. But I would like to see one more hike in the required reserve ratio, if not two. If we don't get that, I'd be a little bit more worried," he said.

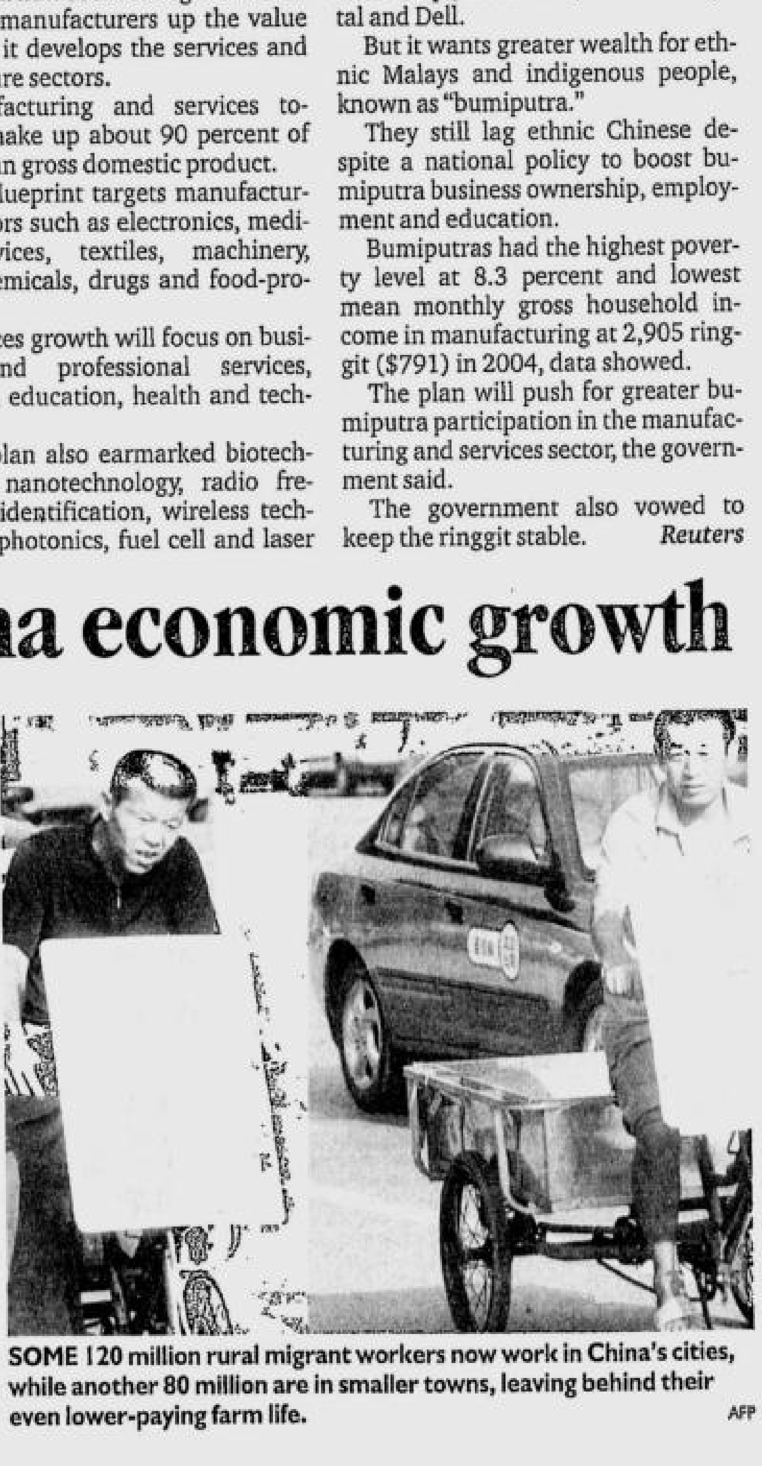
But economists see little risk of a sharp downturn in the world's fourth-largest economy and they expect consumer inflation to stay mild, despite recent rises in some utility prices.

Many economists believe an undervalued currency is helping to stoke economic overheating as a surging trade surplus and high investment inflows bring in a tide of easy money.

China's trade surplus hit a record $14.6 billion in July, reinforcing the case, in the view of many economists, for a stronger yuan.

"China's huge trade surplus will persist as exports rise in line with its role as a global manufacturing hub. The situation won't change without sharp yuan appreciation," Xiao said.

The central bank has let the yuan rise less than 1.7 percent since depegging it from the dollar in July 2005. Many economists expect the pace of the climb to quicken, albeit moderately, under Beijing's cautious currency policy. *Reuters*



SOME 120 million rural migrant workers now work in China's cities, while another 80 million are in smaller towns, leaving behind their even lower-paying farm life.
AFP

E-mail: pr_science_health@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

Text us your feedback: inquirer hea name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

100-year-old hospital the poor call home

By Tessa R. Salazar

ALEXANDER TORIO, 42, A FARMER from Catanduanes, grimaces in pain as he waits for his turn for treatment at the charity ward of the Philippine General Hospital. Alexander, who has previously suffered from tuberculosis and a series of lung and heart diseases, has been at the hospital since July 27 for his latest affliction—kidney stones.

These illnesses have taken their toll on Alexander's body. He cannot work his fields anymore, and his lungs have been so corrupted he wheezes for every breath. Financially, Alexander has also been wrecked as he could no longer work. He has sold his entire livestock. All he has beside him is his wife Cristeta who looks after him. Two of his kids work as a sales lady and a factory worker, the third has just entered college in Catanduanes. The entire family income could not possibly suffice for the P150,000 needed for valvular replacement for his rheumatic heart disease.

The PGH charity ward has offered free doctor's services and confinement. The PGH's Medical Social Services is looking to its various networks to be able to provide the financial and moral support for Alexander's operation. The MSS is also looking for an oxygen tank for Alexander to use when he eventually returns home. He'll have to breathe with it for at least 15 hours a day for the rest of his life.

Just the same, for now Alexander has to wait his turn. His condition—physical and financial—is just one among the over 1,500 inpatients PGH accommodates at any day. Of this number, 1,000 end up at the charity ward according to a PGH data. There are an additional 2,500 outpatients a day who avail themselves of the free doctors' consultations. As much as 95 percent of PGH patients, all in all, belong to charity.

Graduated discount rates

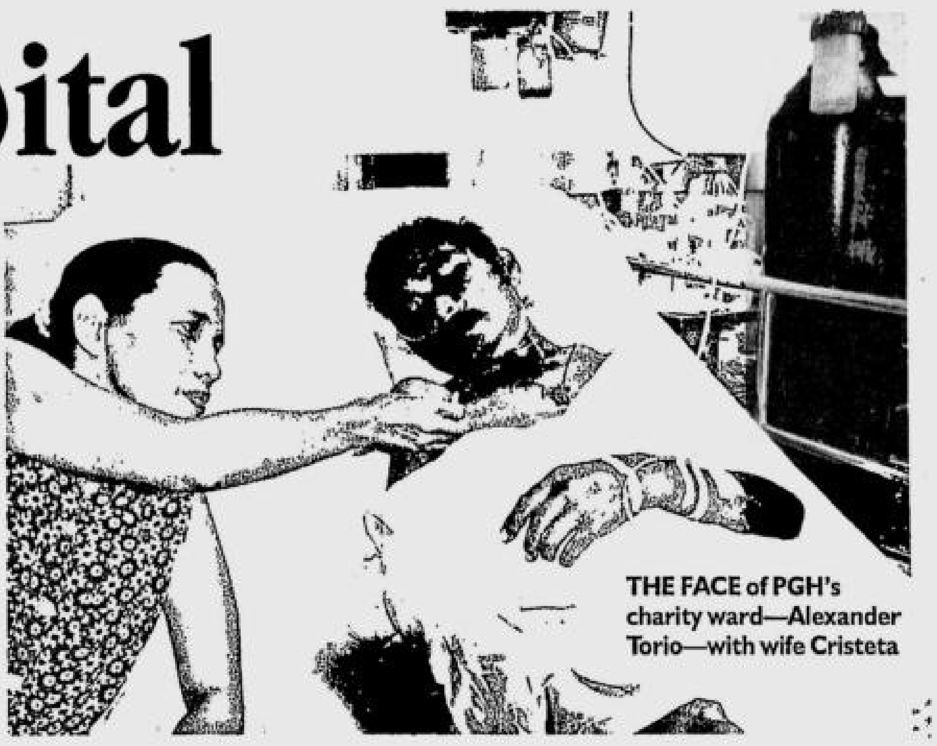
There are graduated discount rates, depending on how the patient stands financially. For Class D charity outpatients, treatment comes free of charge.

Class D patients are classified as having P0 to P7,500 monthly income; Class C patients earn P7,501 to P10,000/month; Class B patients are classified as earning more than P10,001 a month.

PGH allots 450 beds for its pay patients, the biggest pay ward in the country, and 13 different intensive care units that include surgical, pediatrics and adult facilities. It has an annual income of P280 million, aside from the government allotment to the hospital amounting to P1.1 billion.

As a charity hospital, it keeps a wide network to help shoulder the medical expenses of charity patients.

PGH patients are instructed to be self-reliant and are initially assisted to secure their own fund. They are also encouraged to sign up with PhilHealth or secure assistance from the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office or from the Priority Development Assistance Fund allotted to the government's Representatives. Congress is allotted a total of P96 million for their sick constituents via guarantee letters to offset laboratory and pharmacy expenses. The financial assistance would also help shoulder operating room costs.



THE FACE of PGH's charity ward—Alexander Torio—with wife Cristeta

Milestone

PGH is run by 3,800 medical personnel. These include 500 residents, 100 medical specialists and 150 fellows. In a year, PGH treats up to 600,000 patients. It is also the training ground for medical, pharmacy, physical therapy and nursing students from its university's health science campus.

The PGH celebrates its 100th year this August. Ironically, this milestone is the farthest from Alexander's mind, as well as in thousands of other disadvantaged patients like him whose struggle to make ends meet has been made infinitely more difficult by the ravages of disease.

'Puff of irony'

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon

WHEN ALANIS MORRISSETTE'S song "Ironic" first came out, teachers everywhere roundly criticized the singer for her inability to characterize irony. The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines irony as the "incongruity between the actual result of a sequence of events and the normal or expected result." Taking examples from Alanis' song, being stuck in traffic when one is already late isn't ironic, that's just going from bad to worse. Meeting Mr. Right and finding out he's already married causes envy, not irony.

Thinking of a good example of irony just got easier however. In the June 6 issue of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS), Robert Brodzik and colleagues from the Biotechnology Foundation Laboratories at Thomas Jefferson University in Pennsylvania teams up with researchers from the University Medical Center Utrecht in The Netherlands to describe a method by which transgenic tobacco plants are used to produce large quantities of monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) against human cancer cells. Now **that's** ironic.

Popular choice

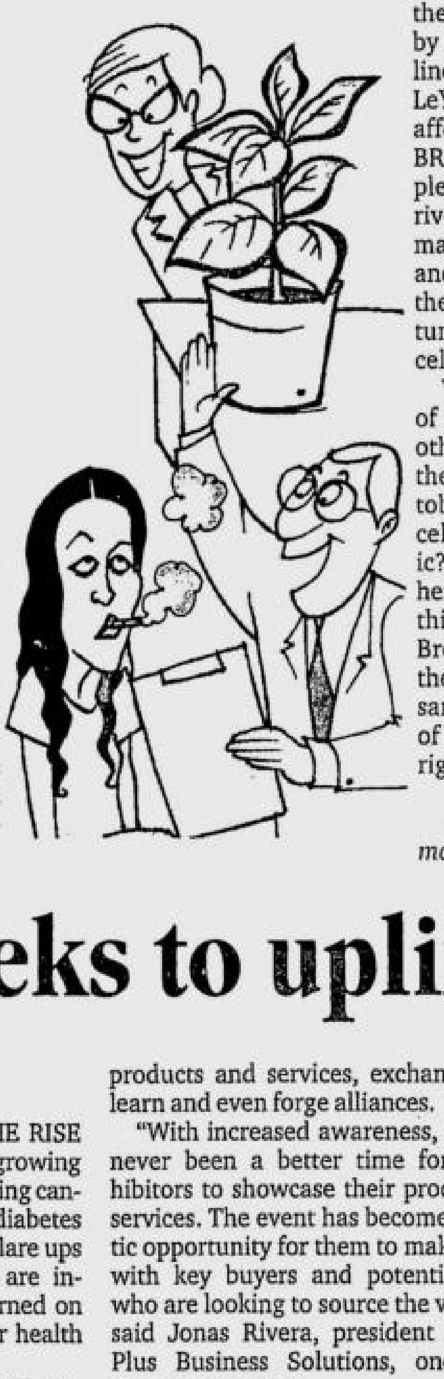
Recent studies have made mAbs a popular choice for cancer treatments either by themselves or in conjunction with chemotherapy because they can seek out and bind to specific antigens on various cancer cells. Once bound, the mAbs can help destroy the abnormal cells without affecting the healthy cells around them.

The problem however is that the supply of mAbs isn't meeting demand, largely because the techniques currently used to produce the mAbs are either low-yielding—which is true in the case of *in vitro* mammalian tissue culture and transgenic animals—or else produce inactive mAbs—as when produced in yeast or bacterial model systems.

Alternative source

The Biotechnology Foundation Laboratories have long been working on developing plants as an alternative source of mAbs, arguing that this model system is easier to use and less expensive to maintain while also producing higher yield than other model systems available. To prove their case, Brodzik et al. developed several transgenic tobacco plants that produced significantly large quantities of mAb BR55-2, which had been shown to target the LeY antigen known to play a role in breast and colorectal cancers.

Why use tobacco plants? The researchers point out that among other reasons, tobacco is easy to grow in a variety of soils and climates as evidenced by the number of countries with tobacco crops, and they have a fairly short life cycle, all of which means lower costs are involved and translates to less expensive treatments.



Test for efficacy

Once the researchers purified the plant-produced mAb they then conducted a series of experiments to test for its efficacy. One experiment involved 3 groups of mice. Each mouse received several injections of either the plant-derived BR55-2 or the mammalian cell cultured BR55-2, which served as the positive control. A melanoma-specific mouse-derived mAb served as a negative control for the study.

The mice were then exposed to one of 4 different cancer cell lines: 2 of the lines—SK-BR3 and SW94B—were LeY-positive and previous studies had shown that these were specifically targeted by BR55-2. The other two lines—A431 and WM115—were LeY-negative and would not be affected by the presence of BR55-2. Brodzik et al. were pleased to find that the plant-derived mAb was as effective as the mammalian cell cultured mAb, and even managed to outshine the latter by being able to inhibit tumor growth from the cancer cell line SW94B.

With this study, a new source of mAbs is revealed, and though other transgenic plants can do the job, the choice of transgenic tobacco plants to combat cancer cells is irresistible. "Isn't it ironic?" Alanis rhetorically asks in her song. "Yeah, I really do think," she answers herself. Brodzik et al.'s work deserves the same question, and gets the same response. This is one part of the song where Alanis got it right.

* * *

E-mail the author at massie@massie.com.

Pinoy SciTek Champ and Math Challenges

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

RADIO REACHES A BIGGER Filipino audience than TV, so it makes sense to promote science over the airwaves as well. Every Sunday from 2:30 to 3 pm over AM station dzMM (630 on the AM band), my friend Angelo Palmones hosts the "Bago Yan Ah," with the Pinoy SciTek Challenge as one of the segments. The Challenge, launched during the Intel Science Fair last February, was a joint endeavor of Intel Technology Philippines Inc., ABS-CBN Foundation (through the radio station) and the Department of Technology. Pinoy Sci Tek was a weekly competition for high school whizzes at Chemistry, Physics and Information Technology (IT), the sciences which play key roles in the modern world.

Teresa Pacis, Intel external communications manager, believes that Pinoy SciTek Challenge is a good way to initiate students into the interesting realm of science and technology. Intel supported Pinoy SciTek Challenge as a complementary endeavor to its very own Intel Philippine Science Fair, an annual search for the best high school research projects. Samahang Pisika ng Pilipinas, the University of the Philippines-National Institute for Science and Mathematics Education Development, and Mr. Richard Parcia, Intel's Asia technology solutions manager, were the test framers for the competition.

Champion, competitors

Last June, Deneris Ramos, 15, a senior at the Governor Ferrer Memorial High School, General Trias, Cavite, emerged champion of Pinoy SciTek Challenge. Ramos and her Science teacher, Mrs. Aida Asuncion, won trips to Hong Kong, plus cash prizes. Aside from Ramos, the other students who competed for the grand finals of Pinoy SciTek Challenge were Rafael V. Montesa, 14 years old, of Rizal National Science High School and Rouchel Anne M. Briones, 16, of Caloocan City Science High School. Their coaches were Mrs. Miriam Dionisio and Mrs. Clarisa Avila, respectively.

I commend Intel for its support of science, and indeed, Governor Ferrer Memorial High School is a beneficiary under Intel's Volunteer Matching Grant Program, where the company matches every 20 hours of volunteer work with US$50. Selected graduating elementary and high school students also received the Intel Science and Math Excellence Award. For more information in Intel's education initiatives, visit http://educate.intel.com/ph.

Math news

For the latest in math news: According to the journal New Scientist, hi-tech has confirmed what many researchers have long suspected: Chinese and English speakers may learn math differently. Using magnetic brain scans, Yijun Liu and his team at the University of Florida McKnight Brain Institute have discovered that Chinese rely more on visual brain areas for processing, while English speakers use language centers. Twelve Chinese college seniors in Dalian (where Mandarin is spoken) and 12 native English speakers from the United States, Australia, Canada and England, with men and women equally represented, lay in a scanner and had to push buttons while solving arithmetic problems. Not surprisingly, the parietal cortex of both groups lighted up, since this region has long been associated with math.

Here comes the striking difference: the native English speakers use additional regions involved in word meaning, while their Chinese counterparts use visual-spatial areas, which may give the latter an edge when dealing with numbers. Abacus, by the way, promotes visual learning more than the calculator does. Abacus, anyone? I thank Massie Santos, my colleague in this section, for forwarding this report.

Cool website

A challenge for readers: here is a cool website recommended by educator and critic Dr. Isagani Cruz: www.digicc.com. Here Fido, the icon of 7-Up, gives this puzzle. First, write down a 3- or 4-digit number (not all digits should be alike). Jumble all the digits to make another number. Then subtract the smaller number from the larger one. Encircle one of the digits in your answer, except zero. Jumble up all the numbers which are left, and Fido can read your mind by guessing the digit you circled. Try this on the website.

What is Fido's secret? The reader with the first correct solution will receive an autographed copy of my latest book In Love with Science (Anvil, 2006).

* * *

E-mail author at blessbook@yahoo.com.

Expo seeks to uplift Philippine's health awareness

By Charles E. Buban

HEALTH AWARENESS IS ON THE RISE in the Philippines and with the growing burden of chronic diseases, including cancers, cardiovascular diseases, diabetes and obesity as well as occasional flare ups of infectious diseases, Filipinos are increasingly becoming more concerned on how they could take care of their health more effectively.

It was this reason the National Healthcare Expo was initiated last year with the objective of providing medical professionals, medical students, hospitals, health-related organizations and pharmaceutical firms, as well as individuals interested in health-related issues a venue where they could showcase their products and services, exchange ideas, learn and even forge alliances.

"With increased awareness, there has never been a better time for our exhibitors to showcase their products and services. The event has become a fantastic opportunity for them to make contact with key buyers and potential clients who are looking to source the very best," said Jonas Rivera, president of Image Plus Business Solutions, one of the event's organizers.

Under one roof

Rivera added that the NHE brings medical and healthcare products, gadgets, equipment and services with special emphasis on preventive healthcare, healthy lifestyle and self-care medication under one roof.

"Now on its second year, we hope to replicate or even exceed what the event has achieved last year. With the theme 'Toward a Healthier Tomorrow for the Filipinos' this year's NHE (running until tomorrow at the SM Megatrade Hall 1 in Mandaluyong City) is holding presentations on healthy lifestyle routine as well as launches of new products and services. Moreover, there will also be free consultations, checkups, and health items to be given away during the three-day event," Rivera said.

According to him, today's program (starting 1 p.m.) would discuss family planning and PhilHealth advantage followed by an open forum. Other topics are Mercury—free healthcare, traditional Chinese medicine, osteoporosis: preventable diseases, lung care and tuberculosis.

To be discussed tomorrow are women's health, physical medical and rehabilitation, healthy living, medical waste, PVC/DEHP and incineration, maintaining good and healthy vision and adult wellness: a journey toward your health.

Wide range

"As one may notice from these 30- to 60-minute presentations, the NHE 2006 presents a wide range of health and medical topics from preventive healthcare and healthy lifestyle to self-care medication and professionally guided medical treatment for homes, clinics or hospitals," Rivera said.

Organized by SM Megatrade Office and Image Plus Business Solutions, the NHE 2006, is supported by the Department of Health, Philippine Medical Association, Philippine Dental Association, Philippine National Red Cross, Philippine Society of Hypertension, Family Planning Organization of the Philippines, Philippine Institute of Traditional and Alternative Healthcare and Eye Bank of the Philippines.

"Last year's NHE was able to attract the right audience through its combination of high-quality exhibitors and added value show features that pull in the crowds. This week's staging of the NHE 2006 is the public's chance to educate themselves anew on innovations within the health and wellness sector," Rivera said.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

ACCOUNTING SUPERVISOR

This post is offered by PILIPINAS KANEKO SEEDS CORPORATION, a Filipino-Japanese joint venture engaged in research and development, production, import, export and domestic sales of high quality vegetable seeds.

PILIPINAS KANEKO SEEDS CORPORATION was established in the Philippines in 1982 and for the past twenty four years has been considered one of the leading companies in them vegetable industry in the Philippines. It is managed by a Japanese expert from KANEKO SEEDS CO., LTD. which is considered No. 3 seed company in Japan.

This post is ideally filled by an applicant with the following qualifications:

- A male or female graduate of BS in Accountancy
- 26 to 30 years old
- CPA preferred but not a must
- Equipped with at least 3 years experience in general accounting and good background in inventory and receivables accounting
- Analytical and attentive to details
- Ambitious and possesses leadership skills
- Excellent in verbal and written communication skills
- Proficient in computer operations particularly in use of MS Excel and MS Word

We offer a starting salary of P20,000. In addition, an attractive benefits awaits the successful candidate.

Interested parties may send their comprehensive resumé with transcript of records and 2x2 picture to the following address:

PILIPINAS KANEKO SEEDS CORPORATION
606 Cattleya Condominium
235 Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City
E-mail address: pilkaneko@skyinet.net
Attention: MRS. NIEVA T. FORTALEZA

MITSUMI PHILIPPINES INC.
&
CEBU MITSUMI INC.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Certain individuals introducing themselves as **ENGR. JUANITO BACARRO AND YURISHITO TAKEDA**, are reportedly engaging in commercial/business transactions for fraudulent purposes with certain suppliers and business establishments within and outside Metro Manila. The said persons represents themselves and conduct business purportedly for and on behalf of **MITSUMI PHILIPPINES INC. AND CEBU MITSUMI INC.**

The public is hereby NOTIFIED, that the said persons are **total strangers** and NOT in any way and in whatever capacity connected with MITSUMI PHILIPPINES, INC., CEBU MITSUMI INC., or with any of the MITSUMI group of companies within and outside the Philippines.

The public is further enjoined to report to the Police or the nearest law enforcement authorities the above-described activities that may be perpetrated by the said persons or other unauthorized individuals. For verification and more information, the public may contact us at:

Metro Manila Office : 4th Floor Port Royal Place Bldg., 118 Rada Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City, Metro Manila, Philippines. Tel: (632) 812-6913, Fax: (632) 819-0750

Bataan: **Mitsumi Philippines, Inc.**, Luzon Avenue, Bataan Economic Zone (BEZ) Mariveles, Bataan. Tel. (6347) 935-4011 to 16. FAX: (632) 731-1534

Cebu: **Cebu Mitsumi Inc.**, MRI-Special Economic Zone, Sabang, Danao City, Cebu, Philippines 6014. (Tel. (6332) 417-0001, FAX: (6332) 417-0003.

(PDI – August 19, 2006)

Elliwell Co., Ltd. is a leading manufacturing and trading company in artificial flowers and Christmas decorations industry. We serve overseas customers from worldwide and target mainly USA and European markets. We are now inviting high caliber to fill the following vacancy:

1. Designer

- Technical school educated in design or related discipline.
- At least 3 years of design experience in Christmas Decorations, house ware and gifts products.
- Familiar with US and European Market (with exposure in overseas tradeshows preferred).
- Possess good knowledge of at least 2 materials of the following: resin, wood, ceramics, metal, glass and foam materials.
- With experience in participating of FAME is preferred.
- Fluent in spoken English.
- Excellent communication skills and interpersonal skill.
- Creative minded, self-motivated and good team player.
- Able to work independently and well organized.
- Willing to work overtime, under pressure & meet tight deadline

2. Assistant to Designer/ Project Co-ordinator

- Tertiary educated in any discipline.
- At least 2 years merchandising / trading work experience in artificial botanicals, gifts and Christmas décor industry preferred.
- Experience in managing product development projects preferred.
- Experience in working with designers or customers from US are added advantage.
- Fluent in English and Mandarin.
- Possess pleasant personality, good coordination and interpersonal skills.
- Energetic, flexible and good time management.
- Hard working, willing to work under pressure and willing to work overtime.

We offer competitive remuneration package. Interested parties, please send full resume with expected salary to **HR & Administration Department,**

For post (1), Pls E-mail: admin10@unitedchinese.com
For post (2), Pls E-mail: admin03@unitedchinese.com

MUNICIPALITY OF POZORRUBIO

SF-GOOD-05

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **Municipality of Pozorrubio**, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers / manufacturers / distributors / contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project	**Supply and Delivery of Toilet Hardwares & Accessories for 5th Congressional District of Pangasinan**
Location	**5th District of Pangasinan**
Brief Description	**Supply & Delivery of Toilet Hardwares & Accessories**
Approved Budget for the Contract	**P 4,200,000.00 Congressional Fund**
Contract Duration	**15 calendar days**
Delivery Period	**Upon receipt of Notice to Proceed (to be issued later)**

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last three (3) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/ Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	*Schedule*
1. Submission of Eligibility Documents	August 28 – September 1, 2006
2. Deadline of Submission of Eligibility Documents	September 1, 2006
3. Result of Eligibility Check	September 5, 2006
4. Issuance of Bid Documents	September 6-8, 2006
5. Pre-bid Conference @ Accounting Office 9:00 AM	September 11, 2006
6. Opening of Bids @ Accounting Office 2:00 PM	September 25, 2006
7. Bid Evaluation	September 26, 2006
8. Post-qualification	September 27-28, 2006
9. Notice of Award	September 29, 2006

Bid Documents will be available only to eligible bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P21,000.00 to the Municipality of Pozorrubio Cashier.

The Municipality of Pozorrubio assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) ENGR. AMERIGO S. GARCIA
BAC Chairman

(PDI – Aug. 12 & 19, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF BUKIDNON
Provincial Capitol Malaybalay City
Tel. # 088-221-4820 & Telefax # 088-221-2537
E-mail Add: buk_provl_bac@yahoo.com.ph

Standard Form Number 05
Revised on July 28, 2004
Contract Reference Number: [illegible]

OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNOR
Bids and Awards Committee

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF BUKIDNON, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/ manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid and re-bid for the hereunder projects:

NAME OF THE PROJECT : Project IV – Medical Equipment – For the use in Bukidnon Provincial Hospital in Maramag and Manolo Fortich
Project V – Drugs and Medicines
FOR RE-BID (2nd Semester 2006)
Project I – Drugs and Medicines
Project II – Medical, Laboratory Supplies and Reagents
Project III – Plasma Freezer
LOCATION : Provincial General Services Office
BRIEF DESCRIPTION For the use of Seven (7) Provincial Hospitals and Twenty Two (22) Health Stations for the second semester of CY 2006.
Approved Budget for the contract : Project IV – P34,080,688.00
Project V – P1,814,902.36
FOR RE-BID (2nd Semester 2006)
Project I – P3,087,880.73
Project II – P1,550,778.23
Project III – P700,000.00
DELIVERY PERIOD 60-90 calendar days upon receipt of Notice to proceed for Medical equipment
15 working days upon receipt of Notice to Proceed for Drugs and Medicines, Medical, Laboratory's Supplies and Reagents.
PLACE OF DELIVERY Provincial General Services Office, Capitol Compound, Malaybalay City

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last 2 years. The Eligibility Check/ Screening as well as Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-qualification and award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
1. Advertisement	August 19-Sept. 1, 2006
2. Issuance of Bid Documents	August 24, 2006
3. Application for Eligibility	September 8, 2006
4. Pre-bid conference	August 29, 2006
5. Opening of Bids Deadline for the submission of Bid documents	September 19, 2006 at 10:00 A.M. September 19, 2006 not later than 9:00 A.M.
6. Bid Evaluation	September 22, 2006
7. Post-qualification	September 26, 2006
8. Notice of Award	September 29, 2006

Bid Documents will be available only to Prospective Bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P500.00 each for re-bid both Project 1 & 2, P2,000.00 for Project III, P5,000.00 for Project IV and P500.00 for Project V, at the Provincial Treasurer's Office.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered at the BAC office, Capitol Compound, Malaybalay City. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security equal to 1% for Cash, Certified check, Cashier's check, Manager's Check, Bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit; 1.5% for Bank guarantee; 2.5% for Surety bond of the Approved Budget for the Contract as advertised. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

The Province of Bukidnon reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Contact Person: Ma. Joe-an P. Bayona

Approved by:

(Sgd.) JOSEFREDIE F. FLORES
Prov'l. Admin/BAC Chairman

(PDI–August 19 & 26, 2006)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (BAC) SECRETARIAT OFFICE
Tel No. (632) 455-2758 e-mail: vsvillaranda@nfa.gov.ph

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that due to some technicalities, the NFA BAC decided to postpone indefinitely the bidding for the sale of the NFA helicopters which was set on September 13, 2006 as published on July 30, 2006 and August 6, 2006.

(Sgd.) **PEDRO S. HERNANDO, JR.**
Deputy Administrator and
BAC Chair

(PDI–August 19, 2006)

OBITUARIES

Swire Pacific Offshore and Swire Pacific Ship Management of Singapore

China Navigation and Swire Pacific Ship Management of Hong Kong

Anscor Swire Ship Management Corporation of Manila

Hong Kong Salvage and Towage of Hong Kong

Davy Ho and Benjamin Wong of Hong Kong

John Swire and Sons of London

wish to express their condolences
to the family of

XAVIER PERTIERRA "XP"

who has joined our Creator
on 16th August 2006.

Esteban "Benny" Balagot Hidalgo

of Bauang, La Union

Peacefully joined our Creator
on August 18, 2006 at the age of 85.

His loving wife **Felicidad** (†), children **Betty, Gerry, Merlyn & Temmy; Ike & Dita; Art, Tess & Don; Teddy & Princess; Tante & Tata** and grandchildren **Arlyn Joy, Abigail, Jam, Cleofel, Mai-mai, Charmain, Miggy and Gringo**; relatives and friends request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the **Capilla San Aemiliani**, Arlington East, The Garden Chapels, C. Raymundo Avenue, Pasig City until August 21, 2006 and will be transferred to his residence at #7 R. De Guzman St., Central East, Bauang, La Union.

Interment will be on Saturday, August 26, 2006 at the Bauang Public Cemetery. Masses to be announced later.

Soldier...
Lawyer...
Farmer

ATTY. HERMOGENES R. PASCUAL

December 12, 1922 – August 16, 2006

His bereaved Wife, Children, Relatives and Friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at San Vicente Chapel, San Vicente, Sta. Rita, Pampanga.

Interment will be on Tuesday, August 22, 2006 after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at the Libingan Ng Mga Bayani, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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WIVINA "WENG" TUMALIUAN LAGUNDI

Died in the grace of our Lord
on August 18, 2006 at the age of 57.

Her brothers and sisters, aunts, nephews, nieces, cousins, and other relatives and friends request the pious readers to join them in prayers for her eternal happiness in heaven.

Her remains lie in state at the St. Peter Memorial Chapels, Quezon Ave., Quezon City.

Interment is on Sunday, August 20, 2006 at Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches, Quezon City at 10:00 o'clock a.m.

"Even when I walk through a dark valley, I feel no harm. For you are at my side, your rod and staff give me courage!."
Psalm 23:4

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Aug. 19 & 20, 2006

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MR. ENRICO ADINOLFI *(ITALY)*

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Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL HOME MORTGAGE FINANCE CORPORATION
Filomena Bldg., 104 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City

FINAL NOTICE TO HOMEBUYERS / BIDDERS

All Homebuyers/bidders of mortgage rights under the Sale of Mortgage Rights (SAMOR) Program;

1. Those who have made 10% deposit/down payment with receipts.
2. Those whose offers have already been approved by the NHMFC Board of Directors but have not complied with other requirements.
3. Those with no payments of monthly amortizations after full down payment of 20% deposit/down payment.
4. Those who have not yet initiated litigation proceedings prior to foreclosure.

All are requested to coordinate with the Acquired Assets Department (AAD) within fifteen (15) days from the last date of publication of this Notice. Failure to do so shall be sufficient ground for forfeiture of the 20% deposit/down payment, the cancellation of the entire sales transaction, the automatic revocation of the NHMFC Board Approval, and the forfeiture of all other payments made by the homebuyer/bidder.

For further queries, you may visit our Office or please contact Ms. Mercy Lorenzana and/or Mr. Eddie San Gabriel at 893-1501 local 332/333.

(Sgd.) **JOSEPH PETER S. SISON**
President

(PDI--Aug. 19, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region IV, Balagtas, Batangas City
Tel. No. 043-783-3325/ 402-1878 • Fax No. 043-783-0449/ 402-0189
Website: www.nfa.gov.ph • e-mail Address: nfaro4_rbac@yahoo.com

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY**, Regional Office IV, with its official address at Brgy. Balagtas, Batangas City through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites qualified contractors/service providers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply of trucking/hauling services in the provinces of Batangas, Occidental Mindoro (Mamburao and San Jose), Oriental Mindoro, Marinduque, Palawan and Romblon for October to December 2006 as follows:

Lot No.	ROUTES	Estimated Volume	Approved for the Contract	Minimum No. of Trucks Required
1	Within Batangas Province	354,000	P 4,498,156.00	15
2	Batangas to any point in Laguna	50,000	P 620,200.00	4
3	Batangas to any point in Quezon (Lucena Branch)	110,000	P 1,779,334.10	4
4	Batangas to any point in Infanta	57,000	P 1,350,870.00	3
5	Within Occidental Mindoro (Calintaan, Rizal, Magsaysay and San Jose Areas)	233,000	P 2,275,400.00	10
6	Within MAPSA Areas in Occ. Mindoro (Mamburao, Abra de Ilog, Paluan, Sta. Cruz and Sablayan).	191,036	P 2,226,412.80	5
7	Within Oriental Mindoro Province	29,000	P 331,128.00	2
8	Within Marinduque Province	44,000	P 308,000.00	2
9	Within Palawan Province (Mainland)	60,820	P 770,740.50	2
10	Within Coron Is., Palawan	25,000	P 137,500.00	1
11	Within Romblon Is,, Romblon	32,000	P 144,000.00	1
12	Within Tablas Is., Romblon	15,000	P 67,500.00	1
13	Within Sibuyan Is., Romblon	16,000	P 88,000.00	1

The duration of the Contract shall be from the date of the signing of the Contract until Dec. 31, 2006 or upon completion of the delivery of the estimated volume, whichever comes first.

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last five (5) years with an amount of at least Fifty Percent (50%) of the proposed project for bidding and have key personnel and equipment (owned, leased or under purchase) available for the completion of the project. The list of minimum equipment requirement is indicated in the Eligibility Forms. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of Republic Act (RA) 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR)

A **successful bidder** is required to submit an Inland Marine Insurance Policy/ Coverage for the trucks to be used in the completion of the project before the issuance of the **Notice of Award.**

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

	ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
1.	Issuance of Bid Documents	August 22 - 31, 2006
2.	Pre-bid Conference	Sept. 01, 2006 at 10:00 am
3.	Submission and Opening of Bids	Sept. 13, 2006 at 10:00 am
4.	Bid Evaluation	Sept. 14-18, 2006
5.	Post - qualification	Sept. 19-22, 2006
6.	Notice of Award	Sept. 26, 2006

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment to the National Food Authority Cashier of a non-refundable fee in the amount indicated below:

LOT NO.	BIDDING FEE
LOT 1	P 4,500.00
LOT 2	P 2,000.00
LOT 3	P 2,000.00
LOT 4	P 2,000.00
LOT 5	P 2,300.00
LOT 6	P 2,300.00
LOT 7	P 2,000.00

LOT NO.	BIDDING FEE
LOT 8	P 2,000.00
LOT 9	P 2,000.00
LOT 10	P 2,000.00
LOT 11	P 2,000.00
LOT 12	P 2,000.00
LOT 13	P 2,000.00

The method of payment will be in cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY REGION IV assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY REGION IV reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Approved by:
ARD TOMAS R. ESCAREZ
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – August 19 & 25, 2006)

HIRING FOR EXPANSION

ENGINEERS
- 10 female / 10 male, not more than 35 years old
- Graduate of EE, ECE preferably licensed
- Computer literate, knowledge of AutoCAD is an advantage
- With valid driver's license

ELECTRONICS AND ELECTRICAL TECHNICIANS
- 10 Male, not more than 35 years old
- Graduate of electrical or electronics technology
- With valid driver's license

Interested applicants may call Telephone No.
426-4221 / 426-4241
Look for **Mar** for details

HIRING FOR EXPANSION

SALES / MARKETING EXECUTIVE
- Graduates of any 4 year course preferably BSEE, BSECE Marketing not more than 35 yrs. old
- Must have an above average communication skills both oral and written
- With valid driver's license
- Experience in selling building materials is an added advantage

OFFICE STAFF
- Graduate of any business course / Female not more than 30 yrs. old
- Computer literate
- Must have strong feeling of commitment and responsibilities
- Can speak Chinese is an advantage

Interested applicants may call Telephone No.
426-4221 / 426-4241
Look for **Mar** for details

Marikina City celebrates sapatero festival

THE CITY GOVERNMENT OF MARIKINA, in cooperation with the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP), will hold a Sapatero Festival on September 2-9, 2006 in various venues at Marikina City. The event is aimed at revitalizing Marikina's age-old tradition of shoemaking.

Now on its fifth year, the week-long Festival is headed by Mayor Marides Fernando and her team notably Melvin Cruz, Lea Santiago and Mario Villanueva as well as the City Government's department heads. The event showcases the talents of Marikeños, as well as CCP's resident companies, among them, the Philippine Madrigal Singers (Madz) in a concert entitled "Madz in Marikina", Ballet Philippines with Marikina City Ballet Theater in a production "Ballet Shoes: Made in Marikina?", and the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra onstage in "Musical Shoe". Likewise, the City will have a citywide motorcade and opening of sister-cities trade fair at the Riverbanks Center. Other activities include children's art exhibit, business forums, skills demonstration, shoe rap singing contest, shoes design and "harana" competitions, "shoeper" celebrity bazaar and auction, a Rock-Ed concert billed as "These Shoes are made for rockin'" led by Gang Badoy, "Harana ng Sapatero: Ang Pinoy Kung Umibig" featuring the Madz, Reuben Laurente and the Marikina City Chorale, and a shoe fashion show with the De La Salle International School of Fashion and shoe manufacturers.

For inquiries, please call Lea Santiago at mobile no. 0917-8572397 or tel. no. 646-3787. Interested shoe manufacturers may also get in touch with CCP artistic director Fernando Josef via email nandingjosef@yahoo.com.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. (632)920-6401*(632)920-6446
E-mail: sssemail@info.com.ph * Web site http://www.sss.gov.ph

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

IAEB No. 2006-027 - Goods

BULK PURCHASE OF MEDICINES & MEDICAL SUPPLIES FOR THE 1ST SEMESTER CY 2006

1. The SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM (SSS), through the Approved 2006 Budget for CY2006 for Supplies & Materials Inventory, intends to apply the sum of **FIVE MILLION FOUR HUNDRED TWENTY-ONE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED THIRTEEN PESOS & 62/100 (P5,421,113.62)** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) for payments for the Purchase of Medicines & Medical Supplies for CY2006 1st Semester Bulk Purchase Requirement on a per item basis, broken down as follows:

Category	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)
Maintenance Medicines	P 3,823,478.59
Antibiotic Preparations	P 673,909.71
Vitamins	P 923,725.32

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

2. The SSS now invites Bids from eligible bidders for Medicines and Medical Supplies for CY2006 1st Semester Bulk Purchase, hereinafter referred to as the GOODS. Delivery of the GOODS is required within fifteen (15) calendar days after receipt of Purchase Order (PO). The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, Instruction to Bidders (ITB).
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section I of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to legal, technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who is determined as such during the post-qualification procedure, on a per item per category basis.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the ***SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM*** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee based on the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC).

Category	Amount of the Bidding Documents
Maintenance Medicines	P 2,500.00
Antibiotic Preparations	P 1,000.00
Vitamins	P 1,000.00

The method of payment will be on a cash basis payable at the SSS Cashiering Department, SSS Main Bldg., Ground floor, upon accomplishment of SSS Form R-6. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

6. The SSS will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **September 04, 2006 at 3:00p.m.**, Green Room, 12th Floor, SSS Main Bldg., East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered at the Green Room, 12th Floor, SSS Main Building on **September 18, 2006 not later than 2:00 p.m.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form and amount indicated in the Bid Tender Documents. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be held on **September 18, 2006 at 2:00 p.m.**, Green Room, 12th Floor, SSS Main Bldg., East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the given address.
9. The ***SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM*** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Bid and Awards Committee
The Secretariat
6th Floor, SSS Main Building
East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel # 922-2991; 924-7380; 920-6401 local 5491
Email – bac@sss.gov.ph
Facsimile number – (02) 924-7380

THE CHAIRMAN
BIDS & AWARDS COMMITTEE

(PDI – August 19, 2006)

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
METROBANK
ASIATRUST Bank
RCBC

INVITATION TO BID

FOR THE FORMER REYNOLDS PLANT

A consortium of banks composed of the Land Bank of the Philippines, Metropolitan Bank and Trust Company, Asiatrust Bank and RCBC Savings Bank (collectively, the "Seller") has acquired the former manufacturing facility of Reynolds Philippines Inc. (the "Site") located in Bo. San Agustin, Dasmariñas, Cavite.

Seller intends to sell the buildings and equipment (the "Assets") at the Site on pull out basis through public bidding, and is soliciting bids for the Assets. Said bids should be submitted to Metropolitan Bank & Trust Company – Trust Banking Group ("the Administrator") with offices at the 18th Floor, GT Tower International Building, 6813 Ayala Avenue corner HV dela Costa St., Makati City. The bids should be received by the Administrator on or before 12 noon of 06 Sept 2006.

Bids should conform with the minimum terms and conditions prescribed in the Terms of Reference (TOR) to facilitate an objective and transparent evaluation by Seller. The TOR provides the guidelines in the submission, eligibility, and acceptance of the bid which may be deemed most advantageous and beneficial to Seller.

Description of the Assets for sale, as well as its **MINIMUM BID PRICE**, is as follows:

Description	Minimum Bid Price
Buildings and equipment located at the Site, excluding fences and gates. An inventory of various depreciable assets at the Site is attached to the TOR as Annex 1 and is made an integral part of the TOR. Seller does not make any representation or warranty on the condition of the Assets. The prospective buyer is assumed to have conducted due diligence to ascertain the actual condition of the Assets, and legal status of the title thereto.	P 300,000,000.00

A complete set of the TOR and its Annexes, which consist of the inventory of Assets, proforma Letter of Credit, Bid Form, and Buyer's Information Sheet, will be available starting 22 Aug 2006 at the 18th Floor, GT Tower International Building, 6813 Ayala Avenue corner HV dela Costa St., Makati City upon payment of a non-refundable registration fee of **PESOS: Five Thousand Only (P5,000.00).**

Bids that have duly complied with the requirements set forth in the TOR will be evaluated and recommended for acceptance by the consortium by **The Evaluation & Awards Committee – Reynolds (TEAC-Reynolds).**

The Seller reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality therein, accept such bid as may be considered most advantageous to the Seller or call off the acceptance of bids, and call for a new mode of disposal under amended rules. The decision of the Seller is final and binding.

THE EVALUATION & AWARDS COMMITTEE – REYNOLDS
(TEAC – REYNOLDS)

DISCLAIMER

The public is hereby informed that Seller has not yet issued any Notice of Award to any prospective buyer. Any claim to the contrary is false and misleading. Prospective buyers should secure a copy of the Terms of Reference (TOR) from the Administrator only. The TOR will serve as the official guide in the submission, eligibility, and acceptance of that bid which may be deemed as the most advantageous and beneficial to Seller. Only the collective approval of the members of consortium or Seller embodied in a formal Notice of Award shall bind the consortium in deciding the winning buyer. Further, no individual or entity is authorized to represent Seller in the transaction except TEAC-Reynolds. Prospective buyers are strongly advised to transact with TEAC-Reynolds directly.

(PDI – August 19, 2006)

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Help raise mango production, gov't urged

Declining quantity a cause for alarm, exporter says

By Jeffrey M. Tupas
Inquirer Mindanao

DAVAO CITY—A MAJOR MANGO producer and exporter has sounded the alarm over the declining quantity of mangoes exported by the Philippines over the past six years, even as the country continues to dominate the mango export trade.

"This is a cause for alarm. The volume of mango production is declining," said Miles Cabia, marketing, procurement, and sales manager of Diamond Star, one of the country's leading exporters of fresh mangoes, during the 3rd Mango Marketing Conference here last Tuesday.

The major reasons behind the decline, he said, were pest attacks on mangoes and typhoons.

Cabia's presentation showed that last year was one of the worst for the industry as it produced only 31,268 kg of mangoes.

For the first half of 2006, the country has so far exported about 14,498 kg and Cabia said it was unlikely that the country would produce even 30,000 kg by the end of the year.

"There is just a lack of raw materials. Luzon was hit by Typhoon Caloy in May, which affected and destroyed mango farms in Mindoro, Nueva Ecija and other mango-producing regions," he said.

Luzon accounts for 74 percent of mango production in the Philippines, followed by Mindanao with 15 percent and Visayas with 11 percent.

"In previous years, we never needed to buy mangoes from areas like Davao. But because there was less production in Luzon, we were prompted to buy from Davao," Cabia added.

In 2001, the country exported a total of 37,131 kg of mangoes to countries such as Australia, Hong Kong, Japan, Belgium, China, Korea, Singapore and the United States.

The volume slightly dropped the following year with exports hitting only 35,515 kg.

It went up slightly in 2003 with 35,778 kg. and further up to 33,662 kg. in 2004.

Hong Kong was the main buyer of Philippine mangoes with exports to the Chinese territory reaching 117,121.8 kg from 2001-2005.

Japan was next with exports reaching 39,697.5 kg.

Data from the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics (BAS) showed that Japan accounted for 52 percent of the country's export earnings from mangoes in 2003 and 60 percent in 2004.

Hong Kong, on the other hand, accounted for 24 percent in 2004, a drop from 32 percent in 2003.

Data showed that last year, the country was able to export $24 million worth of fresh mangoes, a drop from $31.11 million in 2004.

In 2003, the country exported $30 million worth of mangoes.

Seaweeds development body pressed

By Charlie C. Señase
Inquirer Mindanao

SHARIFF AGUAK, MAGUINDANAO—To protect the interest and welfare of seaweed growers in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), its Department of Agriculture and Food has proposed the establishment of the Seaweeds Development Authority (SDA).

The ARMM, made up of Sulu, Basilan, Tawi-Tawi, Maguindanao and Lanao del Sur, has been a consistent leader in seaweed production.

"Last year's national seaweeds output of 1.2 metric tons showed ARMM contributing the biggest share of 74 percent, making us the champion," DAF Regional Secretary Sajid Druz Ali said.

He said exports of dried and semi-processed seaweeds provided the country with $158 million in revenues in 2004 and 2005.

The greater demand for Philippine seaweeds in the world market prompted ARMM Gov. Zaldy Ampatuan to endorse a regional law creating the SDA and move to expand seaweed farming to other seaweed-rich provinces in the region.

At present, Tawi-Tawi, Sulu and Basilan are considered the "leading producers" of agar-agar, with Tausug, Samal and Badjao farmers leading the way.

In a Cabinet meeting here on Monday, Ampatuan urged other government agencies to closely coordinate with one another to promote the region's products, saying ARMM was known for producing "world class quality seaweeds."

"[Seaweeds] are abundant here and in demand abroad, let's cultivate and make them our source of livelihood and revenue," Ampatuan said.

Ali said the proposed SDA aims to provide technical assistance to farmers and protect their interest against manipulators, regulate seaweed prices to prevent monopoly, to devise a tax scheme that will help augment revenue collection, and to help in product promotion.

ARMM Legislative Assembly Speaker Paisalin Tago welcomed the proposal, saying his fellow assemblymen were one in supporting "anything good and beneficial to the greater majority of our people."

"With the SDA in place, we expect to increase our seaweed exports and help stabilize the national government's dollar earnings with the help of other agar-agar-producing regions in the country," Ali said.

Rice production seen exceeding target

By Vicente S. Labro
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—A TOP AGRICULture official has expressed optimism that the government would surpass its rice production goal for the year.

Frisco Malabanan, national director of the Ginintuang Masaganang Ani rice program, said that barring any major calamities, the country's rice production this year could exceed the target of 14.99 million metric tons.

Malabanan said rice production in the first half was already up by 8 percent and the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics has projected a 16-percent increase for the third quarter.

Malabanan said the group expected farmers to produce at least around 15.2 million metric tons by the end of 2006.

This means rice production this year would exceed the 2006 goal by some 200,000 MT, he said.

Malabanan, who was interviewed on the sidelines of recent the GMA Rice Program regional technical working group meeting in Tacloban, attributed the increasing rice yield in the country to the farmers' use of hybrid seeds.

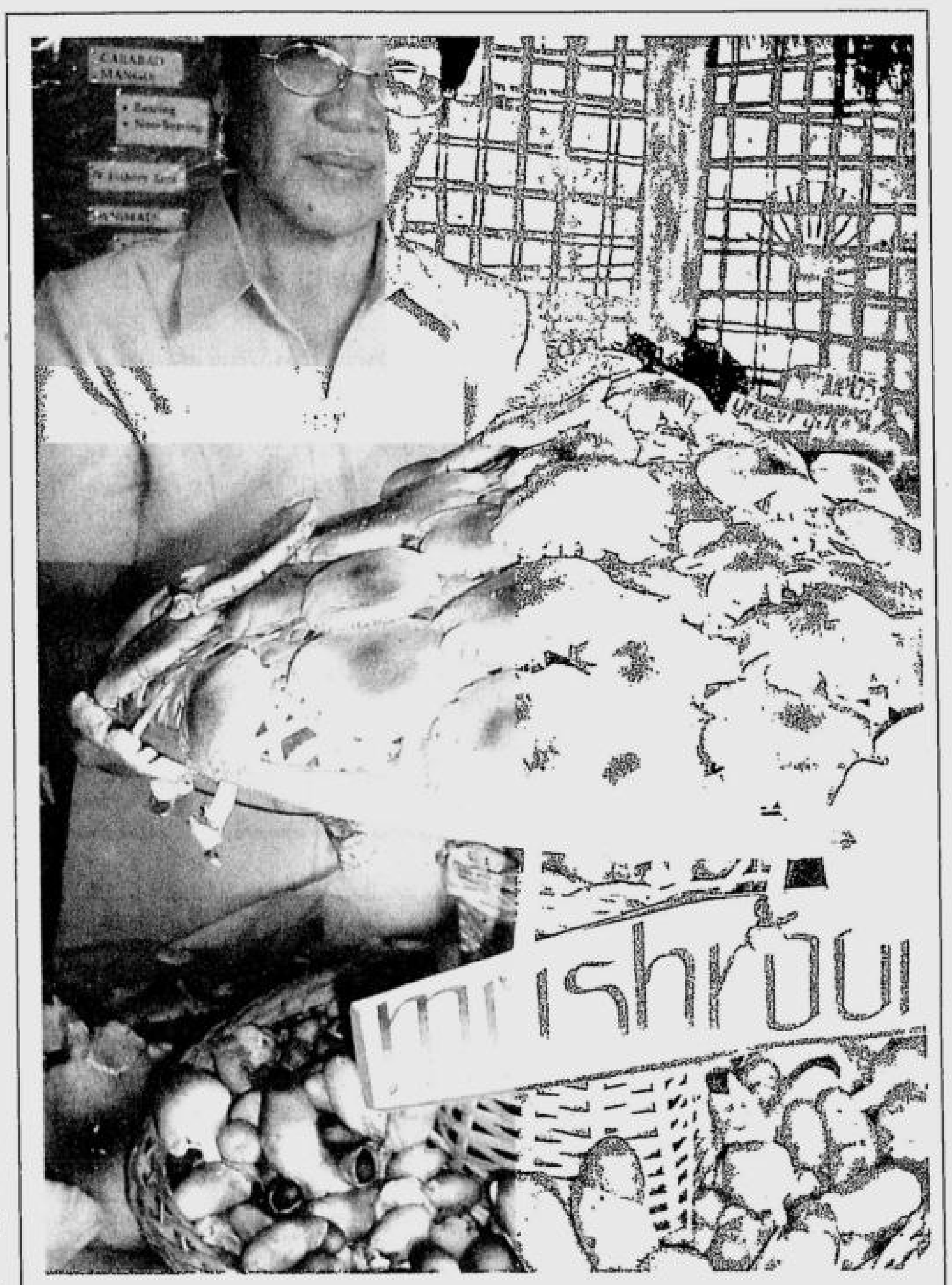
He said farmers using hybrid seeds could increase their yield by close to 30 cavans a hectare over those using certified seeds.

The government has been providing farmers using hybrid seeds in irrigated areas a P1,100 seed subsidy incentive, while those planting certified seeds in rain-fed lowland areas are given a subsidy of P440 a hectare.

Malabanan said the government was trying to expand the hybrid rice commercialization program because of improving harvests.

He cited, for instance, Eastern Visayas where the average rice yield last year was only 3.4 MT a hectare. In the last dry cropping season, the average rice yield has increased to 3.7 MT a hectare.

During the last cropping season, he added, the region was already third in the country in terms of total area planted to hybrid rice.



Livelihood opportunities have sprouted in Nueva Vizcaya as villagers learn to propagate mushrooms.
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John Hay developer asked to lobby for tax rules

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—EDUCATION SECRETARY Jesli Lapus has asked the city government and the developers of Camp John Hay on Thursday to lobby for a measure that would correct the tax flaws now plaguing the economic zones administered by the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA).

Lapus, the former representative of Tarlac's third district, sponsored some of the measures consolidated and passed by the House of Representatives, which restored the tax privileges of all BCDA-run zones outside the Subic Bay Freeport.

The Supreme Court in 2003 nullified these privileges.

The court ruled on Presidential Proclamation 420, which former President Fidel Ramos issued to form the Camp John Hay Special Economic Zone in 1994.

It said only Congress had the authority to grant fiscal privileges to the John Hay ecozone, and by implication the rest of the BCDA economic zones, which were not identified in Republic Act 7277 or the BCDA law.

The court affirmed its decision in March last year.

Lapus said the ruling automatically made BCDA zone investors liable for back taxes because the decision would be applied from the time they began operating.

"These were really not debts," he said, which was why the House approved the measure granting amnesty to all the developers located in BCDA zones.

The other measure grants the rest of the BCDA zones the same privileges accorded the Subic Bay Freeport.

Lapus said the beneficiaries must explain to the Senate why the law must be passed, especially since there were signs that potential investors were shying away from BCDA zones because of the impasse.

He asked the city government and the Camp John Hay Development Corp. (CJHDevco) to join the lobby.

Lapus told Vice Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr. in a briefing here that he never saw the representatives of Baguio or CJHDevco at the hearings when the House deliberated on these measures.

Lawyer Georgina Alvarez, CJHDevco senior vice president, said they were awaiting copies of similar measures filed by Sen. Richard Gordon and Sen. Ralph Recto before they proceed with their lobby.

Working with groups works, group says

By Irene R. Sino Cruz
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—THE CANADIAN EXECUTIVE Service Organization, a nonprofit organization, came to the Philippines with the idea of implementing its Business Advisory Project (BAP) through individual small and medium enterprises.

But Ceso technical experts found it more effective to work with groups of companies engaged in similar businesses, rather than just one company.

"The concept of working with clusters of companies is pioneered here and it is very successful here. It will be replicated in other countries," Canadian Ambassador Peter Sutherland said.

Sutherland cited the case of Profoods-Bohol, an organization of food processors based in Tagbilaran City.

Organized in early 2003, the association serves as the common marketing arm of all food products companies in Bohol.

The companies initially saw each other as competitors, Sutherland said, but they realized that it was more beneficial to group together.

The clustering strategy "unified what used to be a fractious group, where mistrust was prevalent among members."

The participation of Profoods-Bohol in the program has resulted in a 10-30 percent increase in the sales of four of its members.

The Garments Manufacturers' Association of Negros Occidental is another beneficiary of the program.

Gamano president Bing Gonzaga recalled that the group was organized in 1993 with 15 members, composed of five exporters and 10 local manufacturers and subcontractors.

A fragmented organization prior to the assistance of Ceso BAP, its members were in constant conflict.

While exporters did not have confidence in the subcontractors' capability to meet deadline and quality requirements, subcontractors felt exploited by exporters, according to a Ceso BAP report.

But after participating in the program, Gonzaga said Gamano members were able to increase their production by 30-75 percent as of February 2005.

The Ceso-BAP is a bilateral project between the Philippines and Canada. It was launched in 1999 and is funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

The project provides technical assistance and business consultancy services to small and medium enterprises to help the latter enhance their global competitiveness.

The experts share their experience in marketing, product development, technology, production practices, organizational and management systems.

The program focuses on companies engaged in agribusiness, small manufacturing and tourism.

CIDA also funds the Corporate Volunteers for Enterprise Development (CVED) program, in partnership with the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP).

Ambassador Sutherland said the CVED program was envisioned to sustain the Business Advisory Program, which will end in 2008.

PROPERTY

Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**

Lightning rod-shaped building with multiple views 1st in RP

A GLASS house Z model unit exterior

LOFTS soaring up to 19-feet-high ceilings

By Tessa R. Salazar

TO BE SEEN IN DIFFERENT angles and perspectives, to be flaunted as a work of art likened to an abstract painting, a building on Rockwell Drive in Makati is predicted by its makers to generate a varied mix of reactions.

The 46-story East Tower would be built in such a way that it would be slightly tilted, meaning not parallel to the street, and with each unit facing not just one side of the building but many sides.

Like a lightning rod

To avoid the building facing another high rise, its exterior would be angled and shaped like a lightning rod, radically contrasting with the West Tower's curvilinear structure.

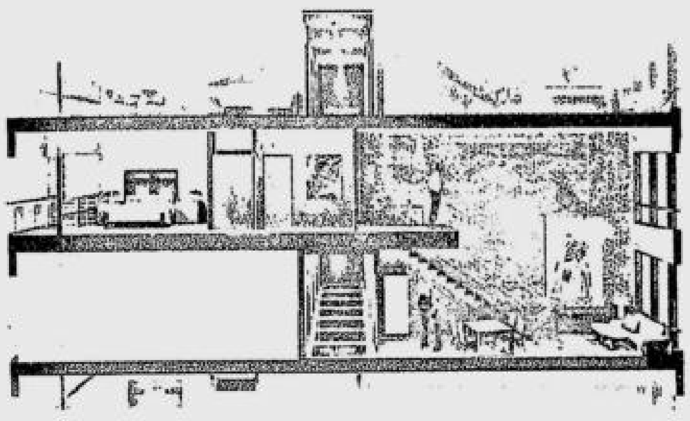
Branded by developer Rockwell Land Corp. as "No. 1 Rockwell," this two-tower project is set to rise on a one-hectare block at the center's gateway on Rockwell Drive.

To be constructed starting first quarter of 2007, it will have contemporary designs made out of glass and metal. About 65 percent of the structure will be covered by glass.

Nestor Omar Arce Ignacio, vice president for technical services of Rockwell Land, said that the Miami-based architectural firm Arquitectonica—the firm that designed the Herald-Tribune building in Florida—developed the buildings' radical looks: the sharp geometric contrast of the lightning rod-shaped East tower with the West's curvilinear build.

"Bernardo Fort-Brescia, the principal architect of Arquitectonica, plays with movement here. He did some patterns showing the flow of energy. He was inspired by what he saw in the northern Philippines, which was the Banawe

LIGHTNING/ B2-2



MULTIPLE view of the Z

Brittany Bay: Breathing Life into the NEXT Metropolitan Hub

Maverick property developer, Brittany Corporation has set aside 25B for the development of Brittany Bay - a world-class, high-end, multi-dimensional urban development off the Sucat Exit, right along the South Luzon Expressway.

Set to be completed in 10 years, Brittany Bay will soon be the biggest urban development project of Brittany Corp., with over 60 hectares of prime property that offers an unobstructed, breathtaking view of the Laguna de Bay and the Sierra Madre Mountains. The project which will offer a combination of residential, commercial, business and institutional enclaves is envisioned to be bigger in scale than existing major urban centers like Araneta Center (23 has), Eastwood City's 16 has. cyberpark or even double that of Newport City (25 has).

Bigger Masterplan

Brittany has drafted a grand masterplan to create Brittany Bay into a world-class destination. It's proximity to the airport and strategic location midway between the Makati Central and Ortigas Business Districts makes Brittany Bay the next, most viable urban development - even before Alabang and Sta. Rosa.

The first phase of development encompasses 26 has and is already ongoing, mostly clusters of residential developments with low density enclaves of La Posada and Victorianne Row, the low rise Presidio condominiums and the enclave of mid-rise condominiums which includes the Viera Tower. Complementing the existing communities is a lifestyle and entertainment complex initially spanning 8 hectares.

The second phase will entail building a central business district to include buildings eyed for offices, business process outsourcing (BPO's) and call center facilities. These offices will be an easy commute for the workforce with a commercial transport park intelligently integrated within the central business district. A neighborhood retail center complete with themed shopping, a city sports and country club and entertainment hubs with a central park that leads to a boutique hotel has been mapped out. On the left of the country club will be a very exclusive residential enclave of high-end mid-rise condominiums and serviced apartments ideal for expats and top level professionals soon to make Brittany Bay their city of choice.

Institutional establishments such as first-rate schools and a hospital is also part of the big masterplan. A cultural center and museum will be located in between institutional establishments.

A budget yet has to be drawn up for the second phase since the actual layout is still on the drawing board.

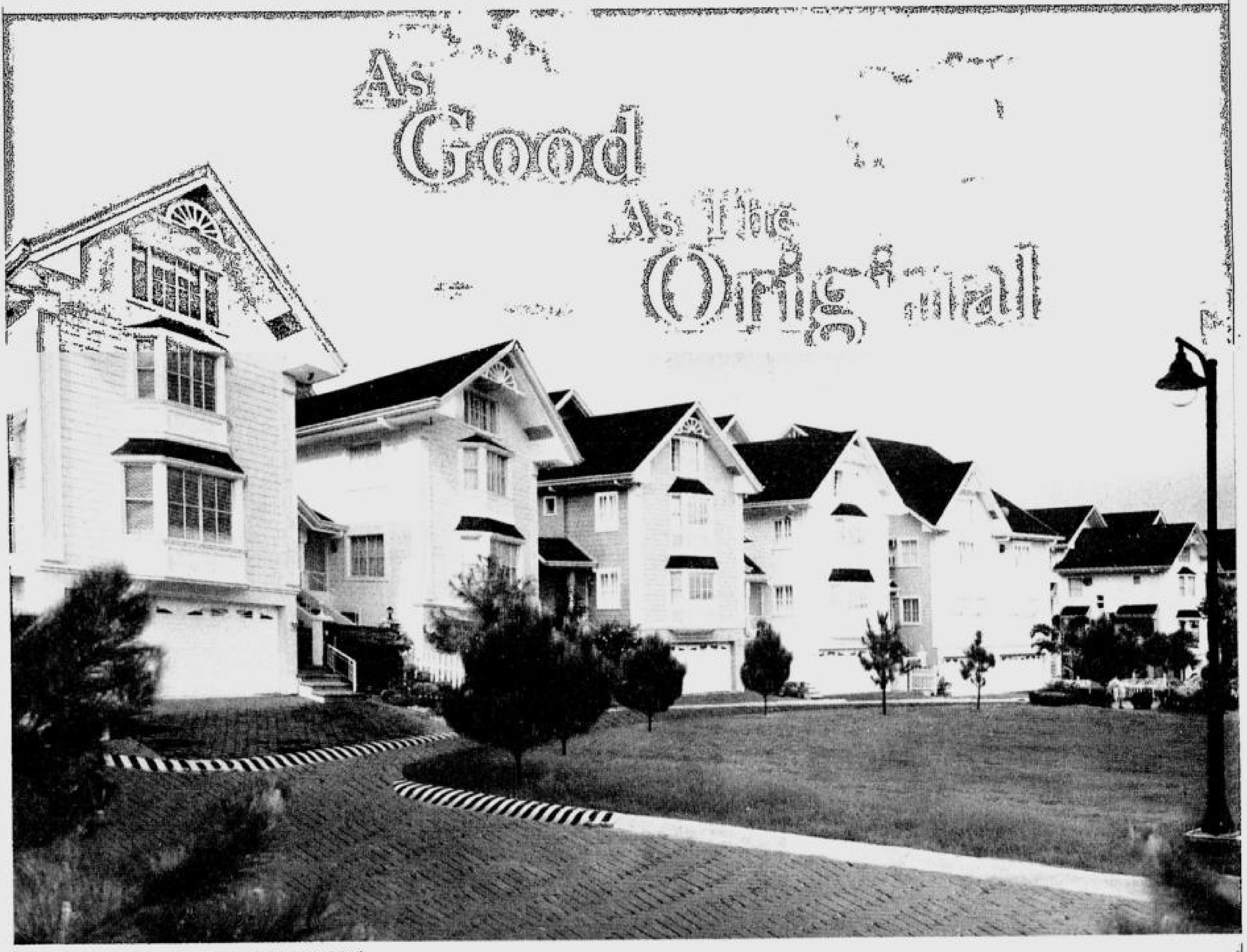
Inspired by the San Francisco Bay Area

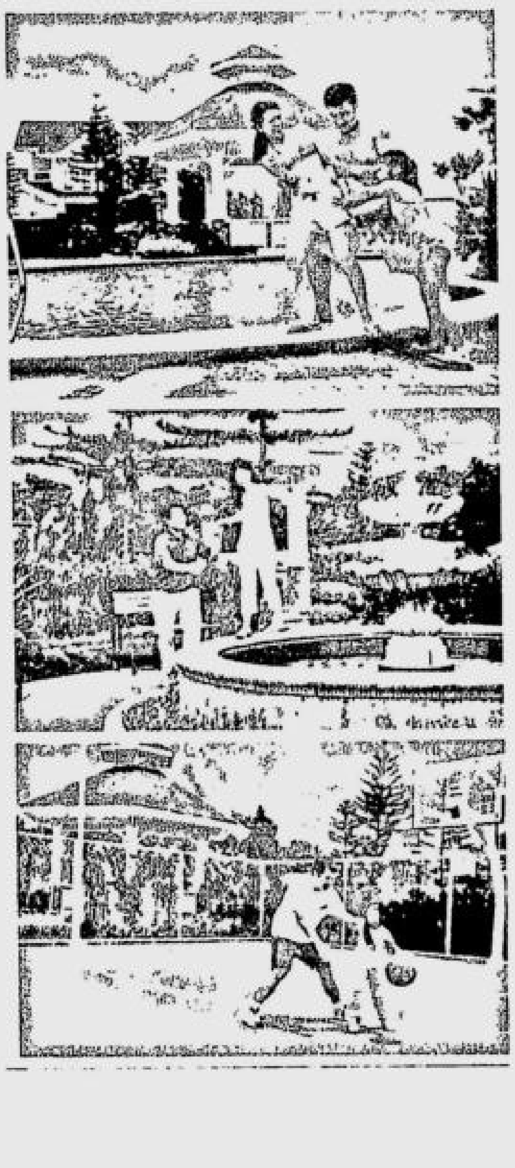
Tying the ambitious masterplan is the classic neo-Victorian theme of the San Francisco Bay Area. The land's unmistakable

ADVT.

Britttany/ B2-3

Brittany





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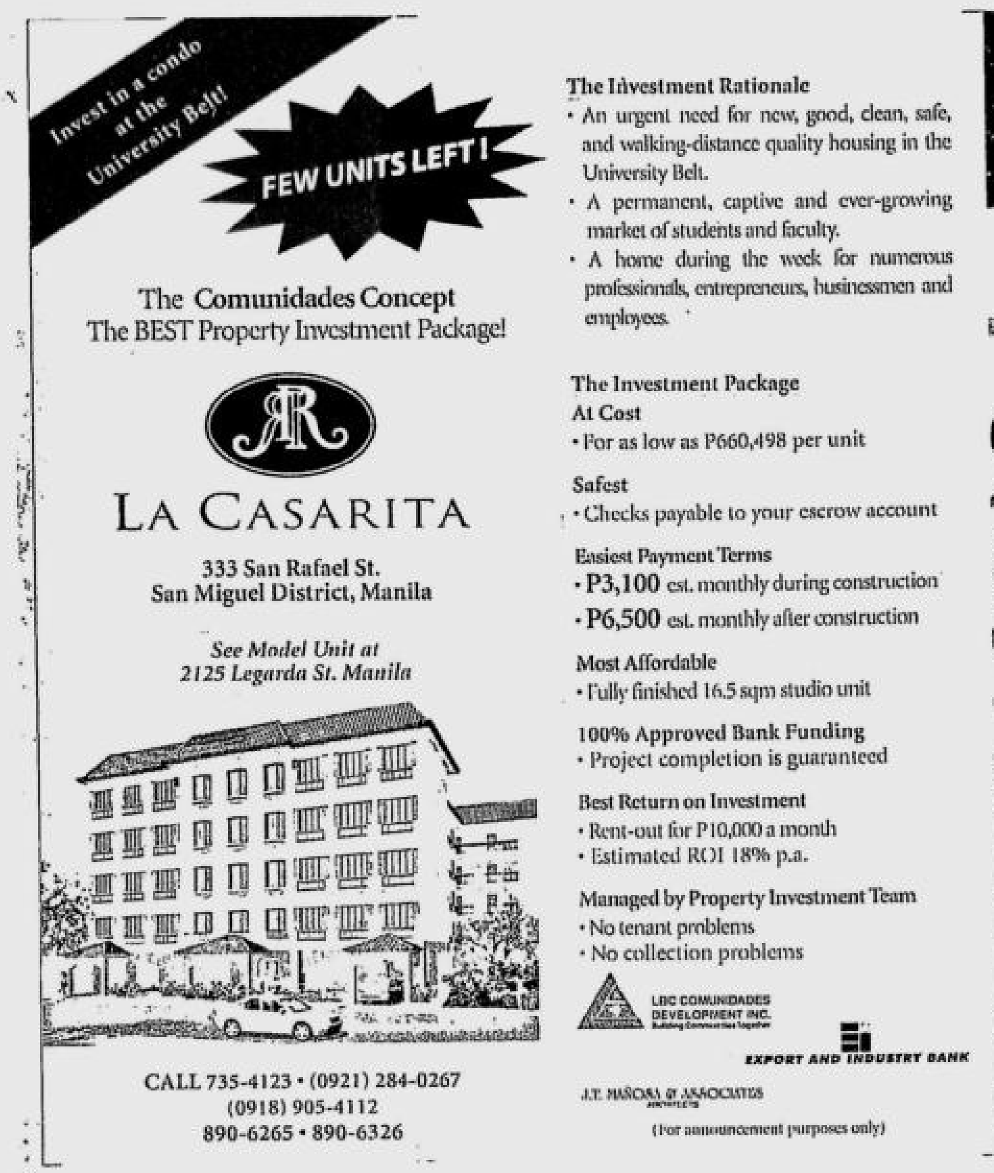
Exit at Sucat interchange and turn left. Turn left again at East Service Road.
The Brittany Bay entrance is immediately to the right.

THE NEW Victorianne



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THE PHILIPPINES' Makati Stock Exchange Building is the 2nd runner-up in the retrofitted building category. Thirty-five years old and on its 9th year of retrofit, MSE Building succeeded in its energy-saving projects, resulting in close to a million kilowatt-hours savings per year.

The greenest, most energy-efficient buildings in Asean for 2006

(Second of two parts)

GREEN ARCHITRENDS

Amado de Jesus

RETROFITTING AN OLD BUILDING RATHER than erecting a new one saves millions in construction costs. A retrofitted building saves tons of steel, tons of masonry and tons of concrete. The embodied energy in an existing building is immense and its reuse saves energy and expense. Embodied energy in a construction material or assembled component is the energy needed to grow, harvest, extract, manufacture, transport, construct or produce a building product. Retrofitting also protects the environment by eliminating demolition and disposal hazards.

Developers cannot ignore the opportunity from our building stock to reuse existing buildings. These underutilized, dilapidated buildings and neighborhoods can be transformed into interesting living and working spaces. These areas are often very accessible to public transportation, and redevelopment into mixed-use projects will lessen urban sprawl, lessen automobile dependency, and protect farmland and natural areas.

Renovating old buildings also preserves the cultural fabric because many old buildings have good architectural character with a sense of history.

The annual Asean Energy Awards aims to provide international prominence and recognition to outstanding companies and individuals who consciously apply the concepts, systems and technologies of energy efficiency and conservation. The program encourages others to replicate and promote energy management programs.

The first part of this series showed the winning entries in the new and existing building category in the 2006 competition.

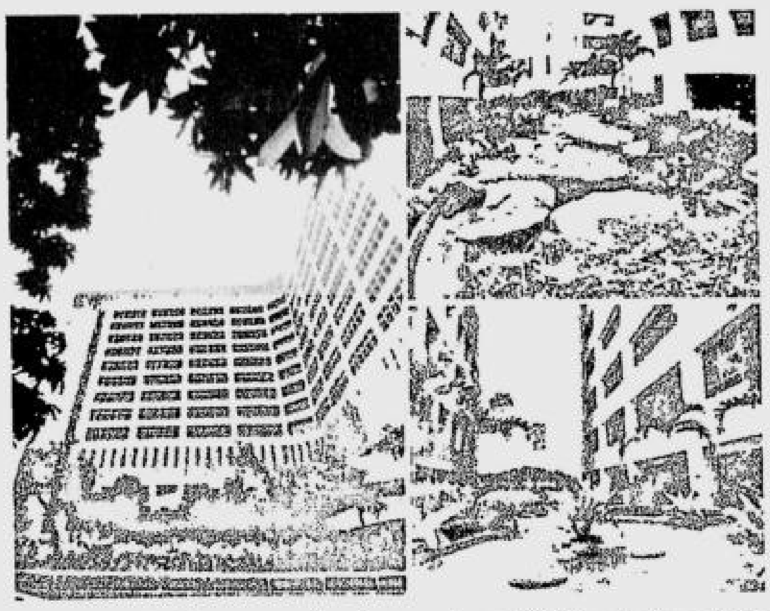
Retrofitted bldg category awardees

The winner is Singapore's Tan Tock Seng Hospital, the second largest hospital in the city state. It also won the 2006 Building Construction Authority Green Mark Platinum Award in Singapore. Completed in 1999, the hospital has undergone major changes in usage, with more than 20 percent added load in 7 years, with its energy consumption remaining constant because of the hospital's commitment to low energy costs.

One of Singapore's greenest facilities, Tan Tock Seng Hospital won the American Institute of Architects award for its unique and efficient layout of the wards. Control of heat gain is achieved by building orientation and shape, the use of light-colored aluminum cladding, louvered and framed screens, low-emissivity glass, insulated roofs among others. The use of rain sensor helps adjust indoor temperature setting. Rooftop gardens, courtyards and abundant vegetation provide a "green lung" for the hospital.

First runner-up is Thailand's Krung Thai Bank PCL Head Office. Energy conservation was achieved through a refurbished higher efficiency air-conditioning system, the installation of three-layer glass and heat-resistant insulated aluminum for building cladding, improved lighting system, an enhanced building automating system and better energy conservation measures.

Second runner-up is the Philippines' Makati Stock Exchange Building. The 35-year-old MSE Building enjoys passive ventilation and natural cooling features due to building design and the 3.4-hectare landscaped park behind it with full-grown trees. The building retrofit started 9 years ago by upgrading its cooling equipment, introducing new technologies and implementing energy-saving projects resulting in close to a million kilowatt-hours savings per year.



SINGAPORE'S Tan Tock Seng Hospital is the winner in the retrofitted building category. It has undergone major changes in usage, with more than 20 percent added load in 7 years, with its energy consumption remaining constant because of the hospital's commitment to low energy costs. Rooftop gardens, courtyards and abundant vegetation provide a "green lung" for the hospital.

Tropical bldg category awardee

Entries to this category have a minimum gross floor area of 500 square meters excluding parking area. Air-conditioned areas are less than 50 percent of gross floor area. This building category emphasizes the effective use of passive design. Religious buildings are excluded; buildings must not be more than 15 years old.

Building types include schools, libraries, retail/shopping malls, hotels and hospitals due to their predictable hours of operation.

The winner is Singapore's Clark Quay. The regeneration of the riverside of Singapore into a festival village combining dining, shopping and entertainment, features a high-level canopy above street level acting as an urban forest causing a 3 to 4°C drop in temperature in the street below. The two-hectare complex comprises five blocks of buildings of warehouses and shop houses with original 19th century style.

How to join the competition

To prequalify for the 2007 Asean Energy Awards, please call Marlon Domingo of the Department of Energy at 840-2243.

For comments or inquiries, e-mail amadodejesus@gmail.com.

SINGAPORE'S Clarke Quay is the winner in the tropical building category. It is a festival village combining dining, shopping and entertainment, featuring a high-level canopy above street level acting as an urban forest causing a 3 to 4°C drop in temperature in the street below.

Lightning rod-shaped building . . .

From page B2-1

Rice Terraces. The top of the building is not flat, it's terracing down," Ignacio describes.

Many angles

He adds that the interesting shapes of the buildings provide many angles.

"The two shapes (of the two towers) generate openness between the two buildings, which are slanting in terms of orientation. This gives Rockwell Drive a better open space that also separates the two buildings to give each unit distance and a better view," Ignacio explains.

According to him, the project has been reviewed by Rockwell's feng shui consultant Andy Tan down to the last details.

The "Z"-shaped building is likened to origami which Ignacio says is also one of Brescia's sources of inspiration.

"The shape gives the building somewhat an aerodynamic purpose so that the wind's impact is distributed smoothly," Ignacio says.

Z-loft a Filipino concept

Meanwhile, the Z-loft developed by Filipino architectural firm Pimentel, Rodriguez, Simbulan and Partners will be composed of "z"-shaped units cutting across the building that will allow an occupant to have views from two sides.

"The z-type loft unit offers comfortable living space on two sides of the building in a single unit," architect Jun Rodriguez of PRSP says.

One side of the unit may face east and the other side face west or north and south. On one end the unit provides a two-level living space. The master's bedroom on the upper floor of the unit is located at the opposite end of the building.

"It's virtually a 360-degree view, allowing more light into your unit because you have light coming in on both sides or from either side," Ignacio says. This feature, he adds, contributes to the energy-efficiency factor of the unit.

Therefore, Ignacio explains, unit owners will not just be maximizing the view from the top with the city skyline as their "garden," so to speak. They would be maximizing the view from two sides.

The prices of the units range from P4 million to P14 million.

Val Soliven, AVP for sales and marketing of Rockwell Land, disclosed the lofts would range from a one-bedroom, 70-sq-m unit, to two-bedroom, 80 to 120 sq-m units to the three-bedroom, 140 sq-m units with 20-foot-high ceilings.

"A condominium is all about views. Clients prefer corner units," Soliven says. She adds that the units on higher floors provide more unobstructed views.

Boutique shops, cafés and gourmet restaurants will occupy the ground level. Amenities for both towers will be on the upper floors and the pool will be on the roof deck.

Groundbreaking is scheduled first quarter of 2007, while completion is in 2010.

The interior would feature laminated wood floor for living, dining and bedroom areas. Units would also have solid cores and wood-paneled main entry doors, modular cabinet systems and stainless steel sinks for the kitchen, ceramic floor tile work for bathrooms, and built-in, modular wardrobe closets for bedrooms, and provisions for voice, data and cable TV connection.

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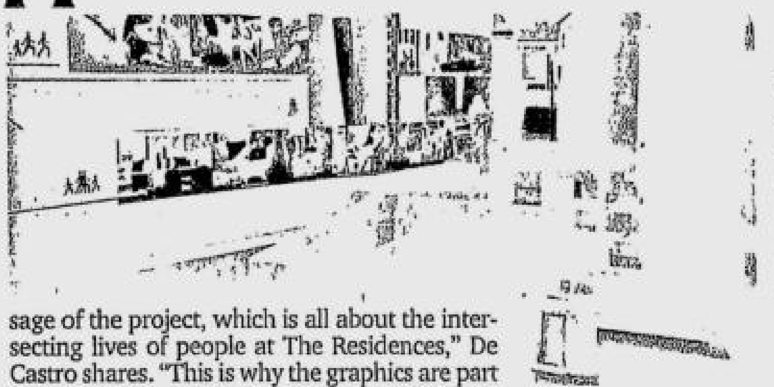
The Residences at Greenbelt unveils grand new showroom



THE ESTHETIC appeal of the showroom, together with the ease of movement that the design affords, allows for a more fluid sales flow.

LIVING THE HIGH LIFE AT THE CENTER OF it all—this is the promise of The Residences at Greenbelt. Since it was first launched in 2003, The Residences at Greenbelt has become one of the most coveted addresses in the city, offering the ultimate in high-rise living.

To further underscore the kind of life one can experience at The Residences at Greenbelt, Ayala Land Premier is set to open the doors of its new showroom—redesigned to provide more than just a glimpse of the premium Greenbelt lifestyle.

"Many people still think of Greenbelt as a shopping or entertainment destination, but it's so much more than that," says Kate Ilagan, assistant vice president, head of Residential Buildings. "So we wanted our showroom to show not just the many conveniences that come with living in Greenbelt, but also showcase the people whose lives are enriched by living at The Residences at Greenbelt."

Top real estate dev't group

The new showroom also serves to distinguish Ayala Land Premier as the top real estate development group for the high-end market. "We needed to establish a look that sets Ayala Land Premier aside from other Ayala Land projects, since we cater to the affluent market," Ilagan shares. "Since our clients are people who have "made it," so to speak, we want to set the tone in terms of what they can expect from an Ayala Land Premier development. Thus we didn't just want to present model units but offer an innovative showroom that provides a singular, albeit personal experience for our clients."

To create this new experience for showroom visitors, Ayala Land Premier has tapped design firm B&C Design Inc. to come up with a showroom experience that unifies the many facets of the Greenbelt lifestyle. B+C Design is a small team of young, dynamic professionals in the graphic and communication industry with training and experience both locally and abroad. Though B+C Design has been in the industry for only 9 years, they have developed a wide and varied clientele due to their progressive attitude and their flexibility in conceptualizing solutions to each of their particular clients' marketing, branding and communications objectives.

People's lives connected

"We wanted to show how, being in the center of it all, people's lives are connected, and whether it's an upwardly mobile bachelor, newlyweds, young parents or grandparents, all these lives intersect here at The Residences at Greenbelt," says Baby Imperial, managing director of B&C Design. "We also wanted to show how the residents' lives are diverse, yet fluid and well-centered," she adds.

These elements resulted in a very sleek and contemporary design that truly highlights the richness of the Greenbelt lifestyle. Upon entering the showroom, the eyes are immediately drawn to the curved walls dominated by huge photo panels that tell the story of the residents' lives in and around The Residences at Greenbelt. Weaving through the fluid, uncluttered space, one can immediately sense a feeling of continuity, with the panels depicting how life is enriched with their proximity to the Greenbelt Lifestyle Center and the Makati Central Business District.

"We really wanted the space to flow seamlessly once you enter the showroom, from the reception to the next sequence areas," says Denise de Castro, architect consultant for the project. "Removing many corners also allows ease of movement, which reflects the ideals of The Residences at Greenbelt," she adds.

The total concept also calls for the integration of the interior architecture with the graphics. "We want the interiors to reinforce the message of the project, which is all about the intersecting lives of people at The Residences," De Castro shares. "This is why the graphics are part of the interior architecture, to again illustrate the concept of intersecting lifestyles."

> The photo panels play a major role in the overall concept of the showroom

Major role

The photo panels play a major role in the overall concept of the showroom, done in the photojournalism style of documenting a day in the life of the various types of people living in The Residences at Greenbelt. "We've created a narrative to again accentuate the concept that everything here is connected, everything is accessible," Imperial says. "We want visitors to be drawn to the stories, identify with the people in the photos and feel what it's like to live in this environment."

"You can also see that the photos are not just face value; they truly depict the lives of people in Greenbelt," Ilagan adds. "We really wanted to show how living in The Residences can open your life to new options, that whatever stage of life you're in, you have access to various activities that can further enhance your life."

For the photo narrative to truly stand out, the design team chose to use a muted palette, using white walls and dark floors. "The furnishings are also in white and high-gloss, to subtly underscore the sophistication of the clients who visit the showroom, as well as to allow them to concentrate on the story shown on the walls," De Castro shares.

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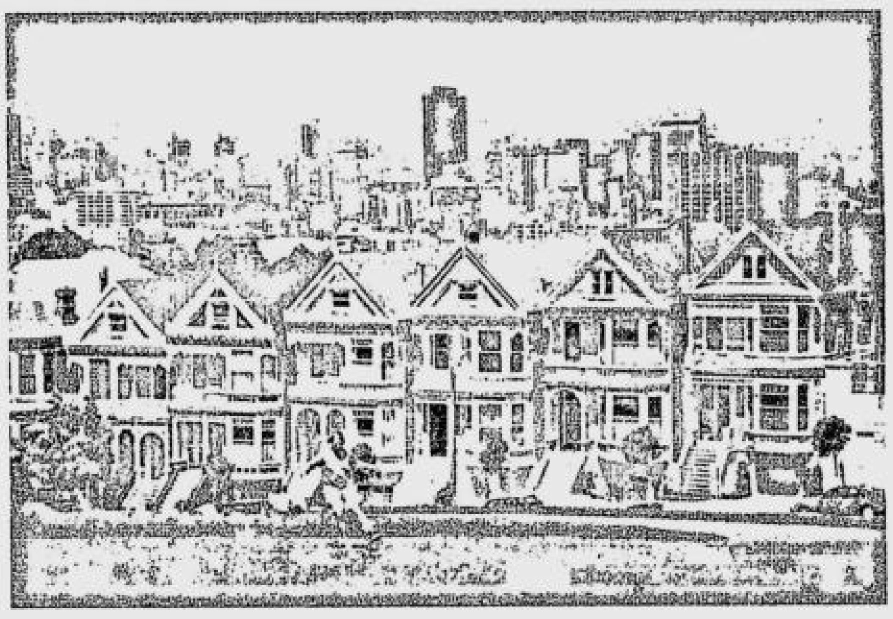
Brittany Bay:

Breathing Life into the NEXT Metropolitan Hub

From page B2-1

semblance in both topography and urban culture lends it easy for Brittany Corp. to choose the SFO Bay Area as the thematic inspiration for Brittany Bay.

From the famous postcard row of Alamo Square beautifully depicted in the bestseller Victorianne Row, to the powder pastel colors of the Victorian structures, Brittany Bay is to the smallest detail and everything San Francisco.



A property that has unmistakable semblance to San Francisco's Bay Area, in both topography and urban culture; The whole of Brittany Bay adopts this anchor theme echoing classic neo-Victorian architecture.

Lifestyle and Entertainment Hub

Responding to the challenge of developing a complementary centerpiece to the urban lifestyle of Brittany Bay, Brittany will put together not just one but two lifestyle and entertainment centers. The first center already in development, initially spans a total of 8 has. and is located right off the Sucat Exit highly visible along the East Service Road.

The bigger, more upscale center will sit on a multi-level terrain with a retail town center lined with quaint and cozy restaurants, A-list boutiques and shops. A first-rate country club to house facilities such as indoor ball courts, interactive pools, a grand ballroom and function halls and a gym and spa will form part of the lifestyle center.

A world class, full-service boutique hotel will be perched on the highest point of the property, maximizing the play of the property's heights and fronting the central park. The hotel will likewise be linked with the country club and retail shops.

Located right in the heart of Brittany Bay, the New Victorianne is close to leisure facilities and other amenities.

In true dynamic San Francisco fashion, Brittany Bay will host a cultural center for plays and broadcast quality performances as well as a museum for city arts. Both the cultural center and museum will be located in between the schools and proposed hospital.

Interconnectivity

Brittany Bay boasts of 4 major access points. The current access is via the East Service Road exiting Sucat interchange from the South Luzon Expressway leading to the 1st lifestyle and entertainment center. Secondary access will be a coming from the East Service Road about 1 km away from the Bicutan Exit. This second route is a closer access to the 2nd lifestyle and entertainment center.

Third is the South Railway connecting the Greater Manila Area all the way to Bicol in the South and Clark, Pampanga in the North. This city will have its own transport park to service the commuters and the workforce within and outside of Brittany Bay.

Fourth is the ongoing C6 (Circumferential Road 6) link that will make travel time from Brittany Bay to the Global City and the Makati and Ortigas Business Districts an easy drive.

Interactive pedestrian links such as shaded bridges and underpass have been planned to create a pedestrian-friendly environment. These interactive pedestrian links meander along major and pocket parks and activity areas that sprawls around the development.

Ongoing Developments

Unlike other urban developments, Brittany Bay is already home to a proud community of neighborhoods established to heed the call of urban renewal. The communities include: La Posada, single-detached homes with picturesque bay windows and porches; Victorianne, townhomes reminiscent of San Francisco's Postcard Row; and Presidio, a complex of 6-8 low-rise condos with intertwined commercial establishments.

A bustling commercial area is ready to cater to dining and entertainment needs of current and future residents. Dencio's Grill, Grappa's, Figaro, Brother's Burger, Murasaki and the recently opened Chinese restaurant, Hap Chan are among the dining outlets that now call Brittany Bay home. For those, with more artistic pursuits, The Bay Center for Music and Arts provides dance and music lessons. Pancake House and In The Mood - a 60's inspired dance bar managed and operated by bar ingénue Larry Cruz is set to open soon.

Crown Asia's Presidio - low rise condos towards the lake

Pre-Selling

Funds for the project would be internally generated, with pre-selling proceeds bankrolling the construction of the residential condominium units. The units vary from a comfortable 27 sqm studio unit selling at P2M to a four bedroom 124 sqm penthouse unit at P11M.

Currently, Victorianne is unveiling a new area in response to market demand, one even more advantageous since the site is right in the heart of Brittany Bay, close to leisure facilities and other amenities, like the existing 180-sq.m. free-form swimming pool. Like the original duettos and quadrilles of Victorianne Row (all of which have been sold out), the 40 to be built in the new area will be reminiscent of those world-famous houses along Postcard Row on Alamo Square in San Francisco, with their simple but distinguished facades boasting bay windows, flat canopies, roof shingles, signature front steps and roof eaves with brackets, in keeping with the neo-Victorian design inspiration of Brittany Bay.

The second mid-rise tower beside Viera and Presidio's 5th building are next in the pipeline.

Partnership

A huge portion of the Brittany Bay development is a joint venture project between Brittany Corporation and the landed Posadas Family. Brittany Corp. however is open to sharing expertise with foreign investors for hotel and mall management as well as innovative mixed-use property development.

Brittany Corporation has long been reinventing the Southern landscape for upscale developments with the 300 hectare Portofino along the Las Pinas-Laguna-Cavite-Munitnlupa Link Road, the American South inspired Georgia Club in Sta. Rosa, Laguna and the 70 hectare Swiss inspired Crosswinds in Tagaytay. For private previews of Brittany Bay, call telephone numbers 850-2868 or 850-3084 or visit www.brittany.com.ph.

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Revolutionary component makes paints odorless, stain and burnish resistant

By Charles E. Buban

IT IS COMMON FOR FUMES TO DRIVE people from their rooms and even homes whenever a painting job is ongoing.

This is mostly due to the strong and repulsive odor that paints emit—otherwise known as volatile organic compounds (or VOCs), which are cleaning and liquefying agents that are also found in other protective and decorative coatings such as varnishes, lacquers, polishes and cosmetic products.

But aside from the smell, another drawback of being exposed to high amount of VOCs would include irritation of the eyes, nose and throat; headaches; loss of coordination; nausea; and in worst cases even damage to liver, kidney and central nervous system.

Increased awareness of possible health risks and concerns on indoor air quality has led to a demand for products that use low or zero amount of VOCs.

SCRUBBING your child's artworks off the wall is no longer a tiresome chore now with Acronal ECO formulated paints

Risen to the challenge

"Chemical companies like the BASF has risen to the challenge. Through years of continuous research and development, it has finally developed Acronal ECO, a key ingredient that will make paint products emit ultra low to zero odor, as well as resistant to stain and burnish," described Archie Cornista, senior business manager of BASF's Functional Polymers Division.

BASF is the world's leading chemical company with portfolio ranging from chemicals, plastics, performance products, agricultural products and fine chemicals to crude oil and natural gas.

"As partner to virtually all industries, BASF's intelligent system solutions, new technologies and high-value products help our customers attain greater success and market leadership," said Lorelie Chico, BASF corporate manager.

This is also why, Chico explained, consumers will not normally find a BASF branded paint or an Acronal ECO labeled paint product on hardware stores, supermarket or home depot. BASF's innovative product is available only to its direct clients, which would include paint manufacturers, architects, contractors and specifiers.

Most innovative

"Our commitment is to provide the consumers—our indirect clients—with the most innovative acrylic-based emulsion polymers in the market. To make this possible we work closely with our key partners, in this case the paint manufacturers so they could come up with a new generation interior paint products having these advanced features," Cornista said.

In fact, during last month's formal launch of Acronal ECO, Cornista informed BASF has already forged partnership with the country's major paint manufacturers.

The Acronal ECO does not contain ammonia, which is the cause of stinging or irritation to the eyes when painting. With BASF's unique production technology, it ensures that this key ingredient—making up approximately 30 percent of the paint product—is almost free of VOCs and other odor-causing chemicals.

No strong, unhealthy fumes

"With paint products containing this key ingredient, people will no longer have to put up with the strong and unhealthy fumes. As a result, establishments such as schools, hospitals, hotels, offices and even rooms for infants and young children can be occupied within an hour after finishing the painting job," Chico said.

She explained rooms and other interiors painted with Acronal ECO formulations have other benefits. Paints with Acronal ECO formulation are stain resistant. Crayon graffitis or stains from spilt fruit juices, for example, are easily washed with water and soap. The paint also resists taking on an increase in gloss or sheen when subjected to rubbing and scrubbing (otherwise known as burnish resistance).

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5 gov't agencies join Creba national convention

FIVE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, THE Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Department of Tourism (DOT), Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), Board of Investments (BOI) and Philippine Retirement Authority (PRU), will join as partners of the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders Associations (Creba) national convention at the Camp John Hay, Baguio City on Oct. 19-21.

This was announced by Creba national president Pedro C. Tario and Techie Bautista, convention overall chair.

Specific conferences

The agencies will spearhead specific conferences during the convention: DFA on the merits of the dual citizenship law to former Filipinos wanting to invest in Philippine properties; DOT on finding new markets for health and wellness programs; HUDCC on Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-Ibig Fund) mid-term and long-term funding programs; BOI on incentives for foreign investments in real estate; and PRA on promoting the Philippines as a retirement haven.

Present during the formal launch of the national convention were DFA Overseas Absentee Voting Undersecretary Ambassador Gene Calonge, HUDCC Assistant Secretary Celia Alba, Tourism Undersecretary Eduardo Jarques Jr., HUDCC Assistant Secretary Pamela Yabut, BOI director Rafaelito Taruc and PRA president Ernesto Ordoñez.

Tario and Bautista said that aside from providing participants the opportunity to enjoy the cool ambiance and posh facilities of Camp John Hay, the convention will provide the forum for real estate stakeholders to be apprised of recent business opportunities and trends gaining momentum in the world's real estate market and the response by Creba and its convention partners.

Introducing another Landmark, W.H. Taft Residences.

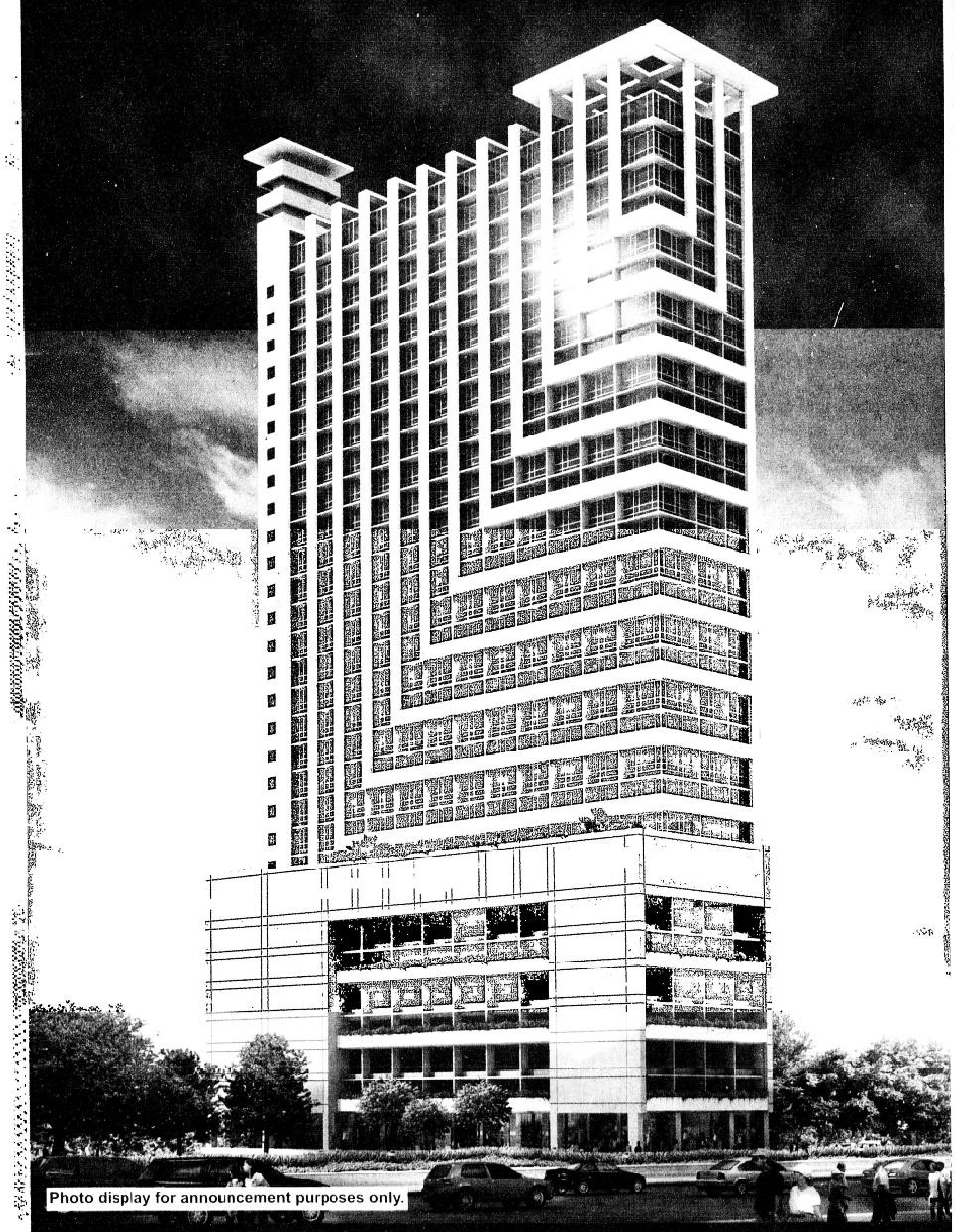

Photo display for announcement purposes only.

The latest 30-storey landmark being developed by **Philtown Properties** along Taft Avenue right beside De La Salle University. Embellished with stunningly modern looks and facilities such as a multi-purpose area, swimming pool and WiFi technology. The **W.H. Taft Residences** is the ideal living space both for college students and professionals. So prepare yourself for the art of urban living at the **W.H. Taft Residences**.

To know more about Philtown's other landmark projects, you may call us at 637-8936, 637-8919, 818-1977, 818-1266 or at 0917-8272549 or email us at mdfoz@philtown.com.ph

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Editor Pam Pastor
Creative Director Tim Yap

Barn it

Super! says
Homophobia
is hell page D1

Only in Super!
Keane and I
'Under the Iron Sea'
page D2

Cheska Garcia
opts for the Super! simple life AM to PM page C2

Super! exclusive interview with
Shu Uemura
'Beauty is everywhere'
page C3

Photography: RAYMUND ISAAC
Styling: GERRY SANTOS
Makeup: JUAN SARTE III
Image enhancement: DAVID MILAN
Cover model: CHESKA GARCIA in PETIT MONDE

CINEMA 1
FIST OF WU SHU
12:30
3:45
7:00
10:15
JOEY SPARROW SOPHIE GUDLUW and ELAINE SACHS
The Pirate and the Witch
Ocampo Films Inc.
BERNIE LEE and MELI KO
FIST OF WU SHU
MARVIN PEREZ and LEN DELA CRUZ
Speed Date

Luk4 MOVIES

Cinema1: FIST OF WU SHU
(12:30, 3:45, 7:00, 10:15)
Cinema2: THE PIRATE
& THE WITCH
(10:30, 1:20, 4:45, 8:30)
Cinema3: SPEED DATE
(11:50, 2:30, 4:20, 6:50)

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Gud PM Cheska!

She is carefree and experimental, edgy and loves to mix-match hip coordinates with glam accessories. She loves to be daring and young all the time

By Chabs Rubio

STYLE IS DEFINITELY ON speed these days. The conscious urbanite can never go on auto pilot, lest one misses a turn, never to catch the bus again.

It is in keeping abreast with what's fresh, new, elegant and trendy that is comfy, modern and still wearable that guides style sisters Dorothy Tionson and Carol Chong in building up the brand that is PM. Formerly known as Petit Monde, the renaissance of this brand PM takes the wearer from a.m. to p.m. with effortless ease. Girly details given the strength of a woman, soft-spoken yet with a firm grip.

Over lunch at Heat at Edsa Shang, I asked the stylish siblings what the sweet 16-year-old brand has in store for the rest of 2006. "Contrasting volumes and details, with more sensual styling but with a more romantic look," said fresh-faced Dorothy, who was wearing a puff-sleeved creation she designed herself, explaining this season's PM look.

"Pretty but functional," elder sister Carol added with a bright smile as they discussed the stars who loved their clothes. Among those seen wearing PM clothes include showbiz royalty and pretty young party things.

"We make sure that our clothes' cut emphasizes one's natural curve. And we like to use embroidery, drapes, wrinkles, pleats and lace to have more fun!" Dorothy stressed their strict attention to detail.

Pretty party mode!

The sisters and their design team combined sixties graphic patterns and animal prints, plus the 80s disco look to come up with a *par-tay* portfolio of jeans and tops, skirts and dresses for that PM pow-wow.

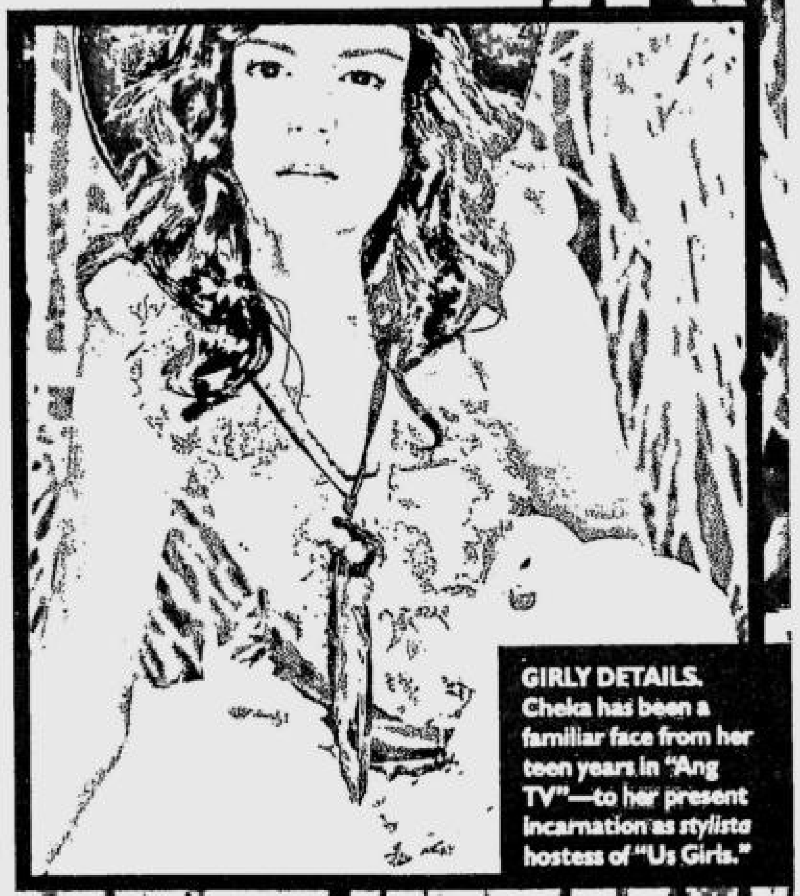
Expect to see Victorian laced outfits with eyelet frills, printed imported silk dresses in small dainty prints and Georgette tops with the silhouette of the discorama 80s! Lace leggings, knitted boleros and distressed denim in layered skirts and minis! Gold silk tops! Satin dresses in deep colors!

If this does not get you in party mode, I don't know what will.

Here in this Super! space, we asked Cheska Garcia, PM endorser, a big question: "Who is the Petit Monde woman? "She is carefree and experimental, edgy and loves to mix-match hip coordinates with glam accessories. She loves to be daring and young all the time," shared the pretty-as-a-pea PM spokesmodel and host of Us Girls.

Just like us girls.

FACE AND FASHION FORWARD: Cheska exudes cowgirl cool, from a.m. to p.m.



GIRLY DETAILS. Cheka has been a familiar face from her teen years in "Ang TV"—to her present incarnation as *stylista* hostess of "Us Girls."

Cheska Garcia

THE THING ABOUT FAME IS THAT you get a lot of privileges. You get a lot of perks. That's what makes it so much fun.

The thing I love most about what I do is I get to express and challenge myself with characters that I portray. Best of all I get to enact roles that I may never play in real life. At least at one point in my life I can say I lived through it all even if it's just for the movies and soap operas.

People might be surprised to know that I read my devotions every night. Besides this, I'm very very talkative.

The most important thing I've ever learned is that there are no short cuts to success. You have to have your fair share of hard work to gain success.

I wish when I started off I've been told to not be afraid to express what I feel and to be more open to learning new things without being afraid of what others may think.

The worst thing that ever happened to me was that I fell down the stairs while auditioning for "Ang TV," and there were at least 2,000 people present.

And what taught this me was to watch where you're walking.

The secret to happiness is feeling confident about yourself and knowing who you are. And also that it's okay to fumble at times. After all, no one's perfect.

My best ever outfits consist of dresses.

My Super! Saturday night consists of dressing up whether or not there's an occasion, and spending time with friends while we wine and dine.

The soundtrack to my life would be "What a Wonderful World" by Louie Armstrong.

If I was invisible for a day, I would ride the plane and go to Paris for free!!!

The thing that makes me most angry are people who demand too much and think that you don't have a life of your own.

If I was the most powerful person on earth, I would do a worldwide hunt for Osama bin Laden and have him pay for the crimes he has done. And also to stop the wars in Lebanon and Israel.

The best thing about family is that you stick together no matter what problems or dilemmas that get thrown your way.

When I'm gone, they'll probably say that she was a lot fun to be with.

If money was no option, I'd feed all the starving people, especially the children. And also build the biggest Christian church in the world.

When I retire, I would like to travel around the world.

The world would be a much better place if there was no greed, hatred, malice and jealousy.

My hero is Jesus Christ.

The thing that makes my life worth living is knowing that God has a purpose for me in this world and knowing that there's eternity with God to look forward to.

My greatest hope for the future is seeing my future children living up to their dreams.

The worst thing somebody said about me was ... I don't care what people say about me. I don't think it's important, it's a waste of time.

My favorite moments are when I'm with the people I love.

I'm saving up for my dream house.

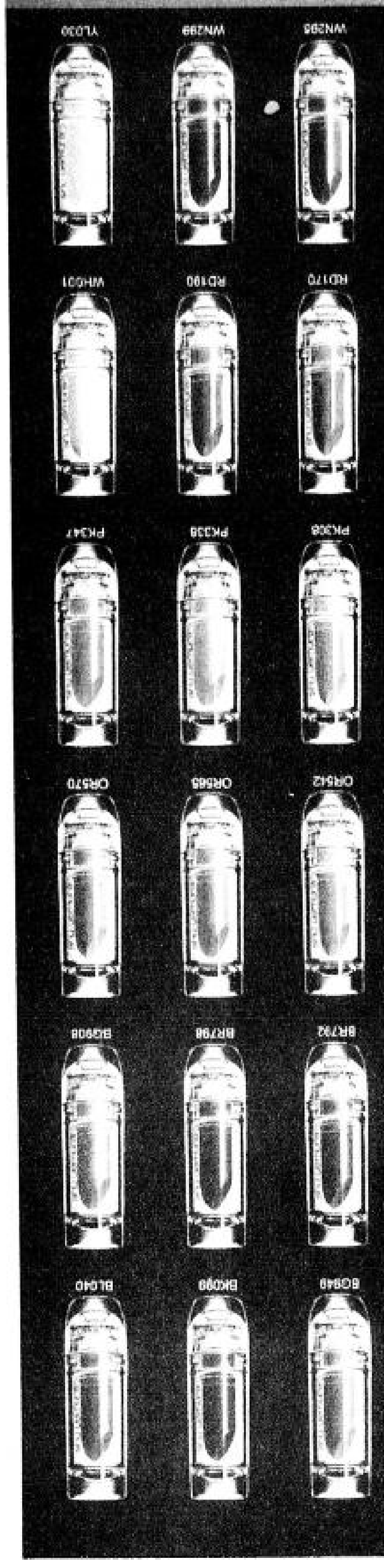
My biggest indulgence are my bags.

My current state of mind is frustrated.

If someone would play me in my biopic it would be? Anne Curtis

I aspire to be a fashion designer.

'Shu Uemura and the Color Factory'



THINK OF HIM AS EVERY woman's Willy Wonka—the man behind dreamy creations and sheer makeup magic.

At the launch of Shu Uemura's Rouge Unlimited, Super! got the chance to get to know Shu Uemura, his passion for color and his quest for beauty.

What is beauty to you?

Beauty is equivalent to my life. So life without beauty is lamentable. In this sense, beauty is something infinite. Also, beauty cannot be there coincidentally or by accident. It has to come from the will to be beautiful. There is a way to realize beauty, then you have to discover the way to become beautiful. Beauty is the discovery. Beauty is also about power, the power that holds people. I think that is manifested in Greek mythology as well as Japanese mythology. There is a legendary story that beauty is described as something very powerful and I believe in that.

Being a founder and soul of this brand, what do you think of color both in your work and in your life?

James Tarel once said the color has power to cure people. It has abilities to stimulate and cure people. Colors can give people energy and power to cure from illness, for example. In makeup, there are other elements like shapes, brightness, darkness, but among all these, color is the most important element.

In today's makeup, they have to consider color together with texture or tone. Color could come in every sort of texture or tone, that could be luminosity, shine, matte, or smooth.

When you create new makeup looks, do you have a particular muse in mind?

This is a very difficult question to answer. I have several images of women from time to time, but other times I would envision women in general. Born beauty in itself is wonderful and I would not contest to that, but I'm more interested in people who become beautiful. Acquiring beauty is more interesting.

What do you think of lipstick? How is the importance of lipstick to a woman?

The average number of lipsticks owned by Japanese women is 13. In my opinion we all likely have lots of lipsticks and choose one for an occasion. A lipstick is a symbol of makeup as well as women. Considering today's makeup, there are four points you have to focus on when you apply makeup on the face: eyes, eyebrows, cheeks, and lips. But you don't apply makeup on all those four parts unless there are very special occasions. Just like the clothes that have become very casual these days, makeup has also become quite casual. So you cannot typically apply makeup to all these four parts.

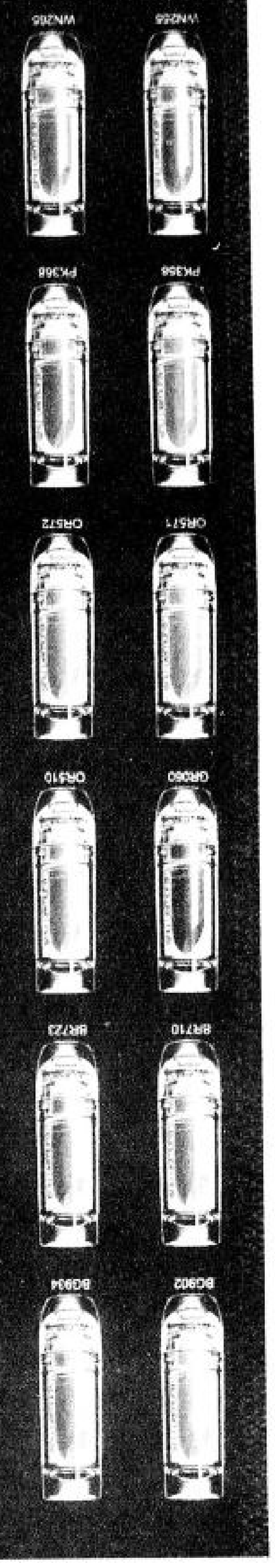
Aside from makeup, what are you most passionate about?

I'm passionate about the environment and water. When women become beautiful, great environment is created, to me. Pierre Cardin, a fashion designer once said that his philosophy is to change a town, or a city through women's style and fashion. Each designer has his or her own philosophy and idea to focus on, and for me, environment and water.

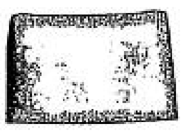
Another thing I'm interested in is how to be free from aging, in another word, how to maintain beauty. In today's society where there are lots of stresses, societies are aging, pollution is ongoing, these are serious issues that surround us in the environment. So how to improve the environment really is my interest, because it is related to the concept of beauty.

In order to realize beauty, water becomes crucial. Ever since I started to work as a makeup artist, I've been working on this issue. One example of the solutions that I have come up with is Depsea Therapy that is a part of Shu Uemura skincare line. I've been looking for the best water for a product and finally found one.

SHU SAYS: "I'm passionate about the environment and water. When women become beautiful, great environment is created, to me."



Gong Li



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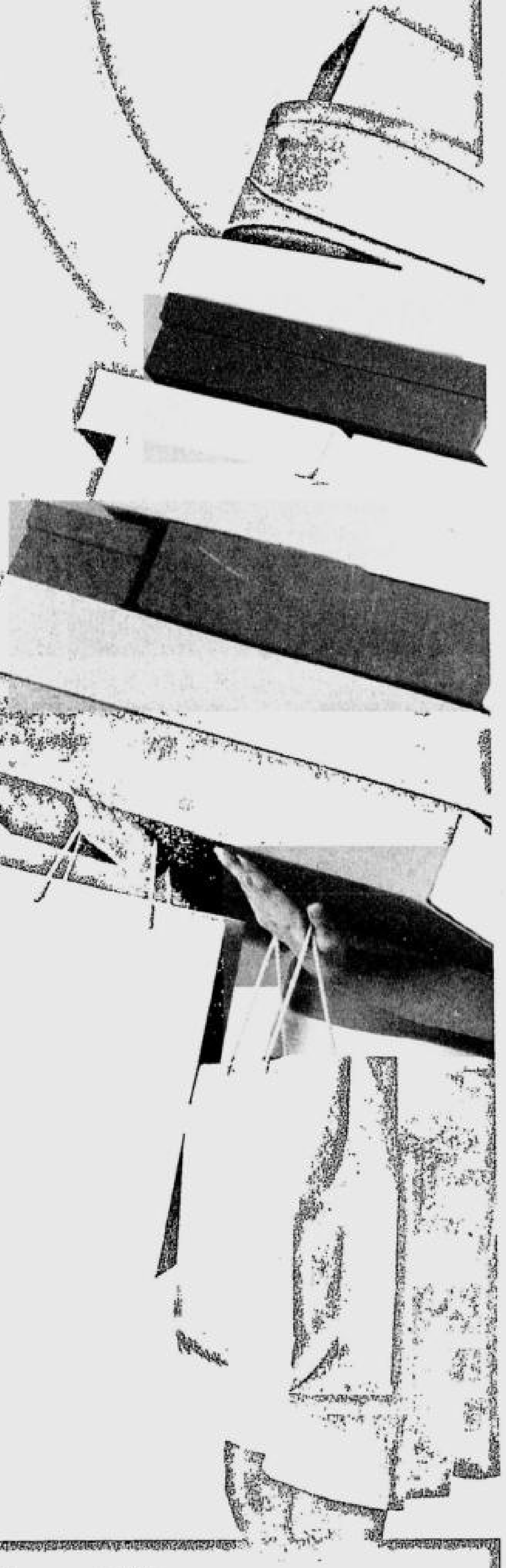
VISIBLE RESULTS and REVITALIFT
Grab this offer from August 15 - September 15, 2006
Available in leading department stores, beauty stores and supermarkets

It's a weekend of more Savings in Valenzuela and Molino on Aug. 18, 19 and 20!

End-to-end savings on super buys are in store for northside shoppers at SM Supercenter Valenzuela and SM Supercenter Molino in the south during their simultaneous 3-day mallwide sale on the weekend of Aug. 18, 19 and 20.

3-day Sale

aug 18•19•20



up to

50% OFF

great selections

SM SUPERCENTER VALENZUELA

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A4-073, Series of 2006

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO

Per Cavite Permit No. 195, Series of 2006

mall hours: **10am-10pm**

get a chance to win

with every P500 minimum purchase

WOW! MAGIC SING

the best-selling magic sing

See mechanics posters for details

All you need

All the time

Selected merchandise, services and groceries are pegged at attractive half-price discounts. Included in the "up to 50% off" categories are a wide selection of garments and fashion accessories, electronic gadgets, health, beauty and wellness products and home furnishings.

Win a brand new WOW! MAGIC SING

To add excitement to the weekend sale event, both Supercenters will conduct daily raffles with WOW Magic Sing units at stake.

Every P500 minimum purchase at any of the participating establishments entitles shoppers to one raffle coupon (including the popular SM Hypermarket).

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A popular dining and snacking venue for mall shoppers, SM Foodcourt offers lunch packs and dinner combos tagged at special prices and merienda meals at big savings.

SM CINEMA

Get one (1) raffle coupon for every single purchase of four (4) cinema tickets.

More fun and savings options are being offered to patrons of SM Cinema Valenzuela and SM Cinema Molino.

Neighborhood malling at

SM Supercenter Valenzuela

Open from 10 am to 10 pm, SM Supercenter Valenzuela is strategically located in the hub of the city's business and commercial district along McArthur Highway. The mall offers more convenient neighborhood shopping, more fun and leisure options, and more dining choices for the whole family.

What's in store at

SM Supercenter Molino

Also open from 10 am to 10 pm, SM Supercenter Molino is conveniently located along Molino Boulevard, Bacoor, Cavite. SM Supercenter Molino offers more shopping, more dining and more fun options for families residing in Bacoor and neighboring communities.

It's a weekend of more Savings

in Valenzuela and Molino on Aug. 18, 19 and 20!

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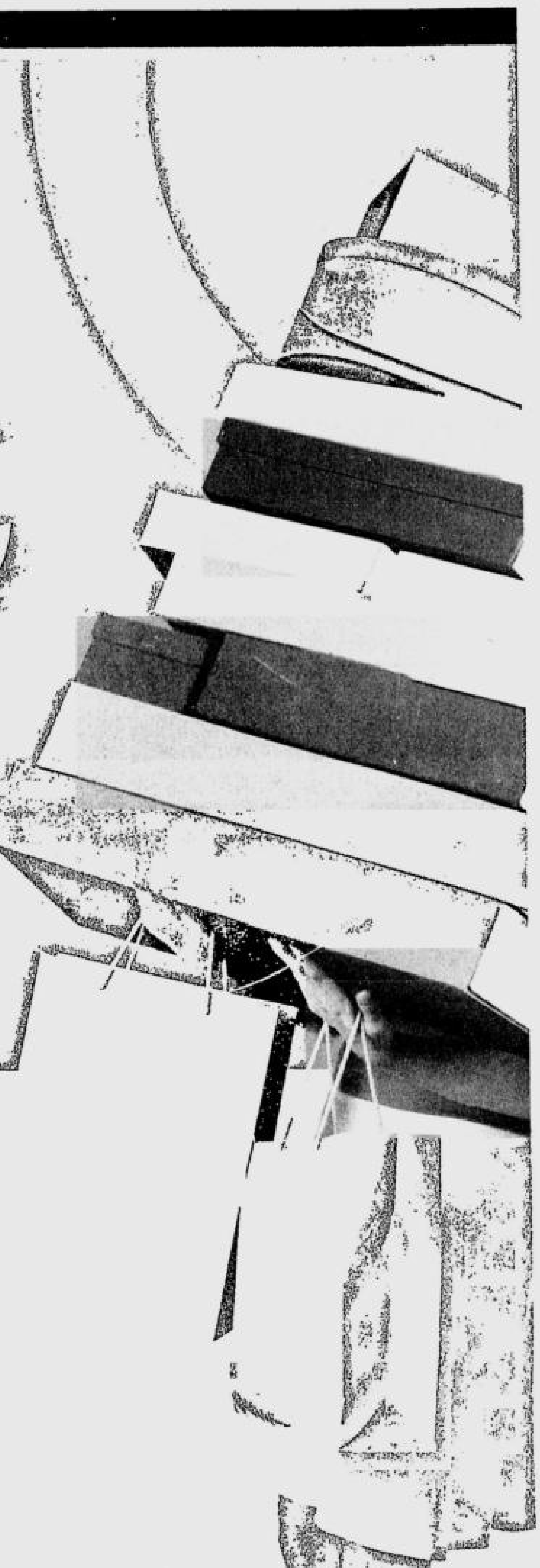

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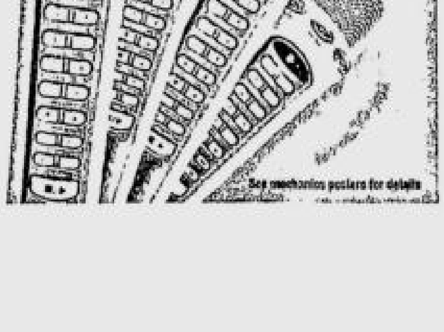

See mechanics posters for details

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A popular dining and snacking venue for mall shoppers, SM Foodcourt offers lunch packs and dinner combos tagged at special prices and merienda meals at big savings.

SM CINEMA

Get one (1) raffle coupon for every single purchase of four (4) cinema tickets.

More fun and savings options are being offered to patrons of SM Cinema Valenzuela and SM Cinema Molino.

Neighborhood malling at

SM Supercenter Valenzuela

Open from 10 am to 10 pm, SM Supercenter Valenzuela is strategically located in the hub of the city's business and commercial district along McArthur Highway. The mall offers more convenient neighborhood shopping, more fun and leisure options, and more dining choices for the whole family.

What's in store at

SM Supercenter Molino

Also open from 10 am to 10 pm, SM Supercenter Molino is conveniently located along Molino Boulevard, Bacoor, Cavite. SM Supercenter Molino offers more shopping, more dining and more fun options for families residing in Bacoor and neighboring communities.

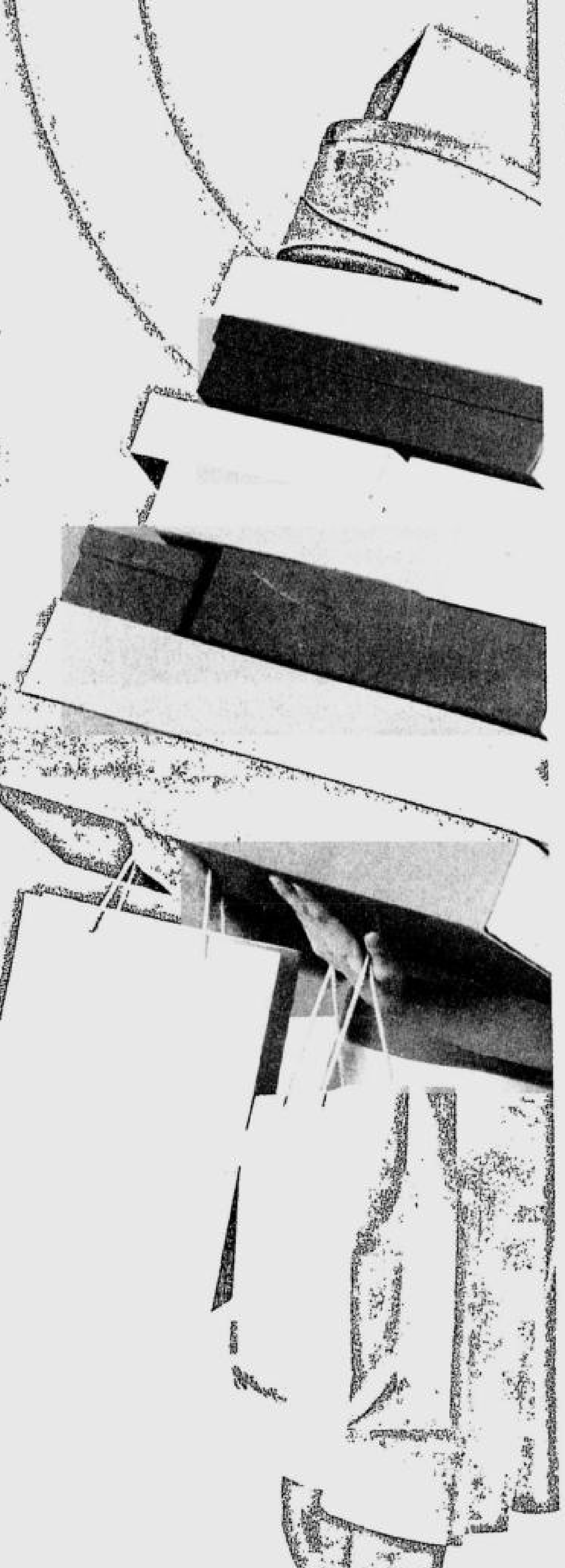
It's a weekend of more Savings

in Valenzuela and Molino on Aug. 18, 19 and 20!

End-to-end savings on super buys are in store for northside shoppers at SM Supercenter Valenzuela and SM Supercenter Molino in the south during their simultaneous 3-day mallwide sale on the weekend of Aug. 18, 19 and 20.

3-day sale

aug 18•19•20



up to

50% OFF

great selections

SM SUPERCENTER VALENZUELA

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A4-073, Series of 2006

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO

Per Cavite Permit No. 195, Series of 2006

mall hours: 10am-10pm

get a chance to win

with every P500 minimum purchase

WOW! MAGIC SING

the best-selling magic sing

See mechanics posters for details

All you need

All the time

Selected merchandise, services and groceries are pegged at attractive half-price discounts. Included in the "up to 50% off" categories are a wide selection of garments and fashion accessories, electronic gadgets, health, beauty and wellness products and home furnishings.

Win a brand new WOW! MAGIC SING

To add excitement to the weekend sale event, both Supercenters will conduct daily raffles with WOW Magic Sing units at stake.

Every P500 minimum purchase at any of the participating establishments entitles shoppers to one raffle coupon (including the popular SM Hypermarket).

Plus!

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Speak up and save lives

Homophobia is hell

When your sexuality or gender identity is devalued or despised by someone else, then speak up. Don't be afraid. Don't offer the other cheek. It is a big deal

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit

WORDS HURT EVEN worse than sticks and stones, sometimes.

We discover their power early on, and the fact that school is a battlefield where taunts, insults and threats are practically an evolving art form. Usually, the most hurtful ones are aimed at those who don't conform to the majority's definition of "normal." *Bakla, bading, binabae, syoke*… they can be hurled with utmost force and fierceness by schoolmates, relatives, and even teachers and other authority figures.

Those who know they're gay feel like nobody will ever understand them. They're lucky if they have parents or friends who do. If not, chances are, they're forced to blend in, because it is school, after all, and denying several years worth of self-hate, shame and guilt may feel preferable over enduring verbal ridicule, or physical injury, or both, on a daily basis. Society has no place, we're told and taught as youngsters, for those who aren't macho, or religious, or upholders of "tradition."

In this day and age, there are still gay kids and adults suffering the same savage bullying and intolerance, regardless of their nationality, race, or religious affiliation. It's always painful to read about the circumstances surrounding the deaths of hate crime victims Matthew Shepard and Brandon Teena, or those who've committed suicide because they felt that they could never fit in. It's hard not to shed a tear while hearing stories of people suffering unbelievable humiliation because of their sexual preference. It's frightening to think that, yes, it could've been you. Or your lover, friend, mom, dad, sibling, teacher, doctor, priest, lawyer, employer, even your favorite movie star.

Ideology of evil

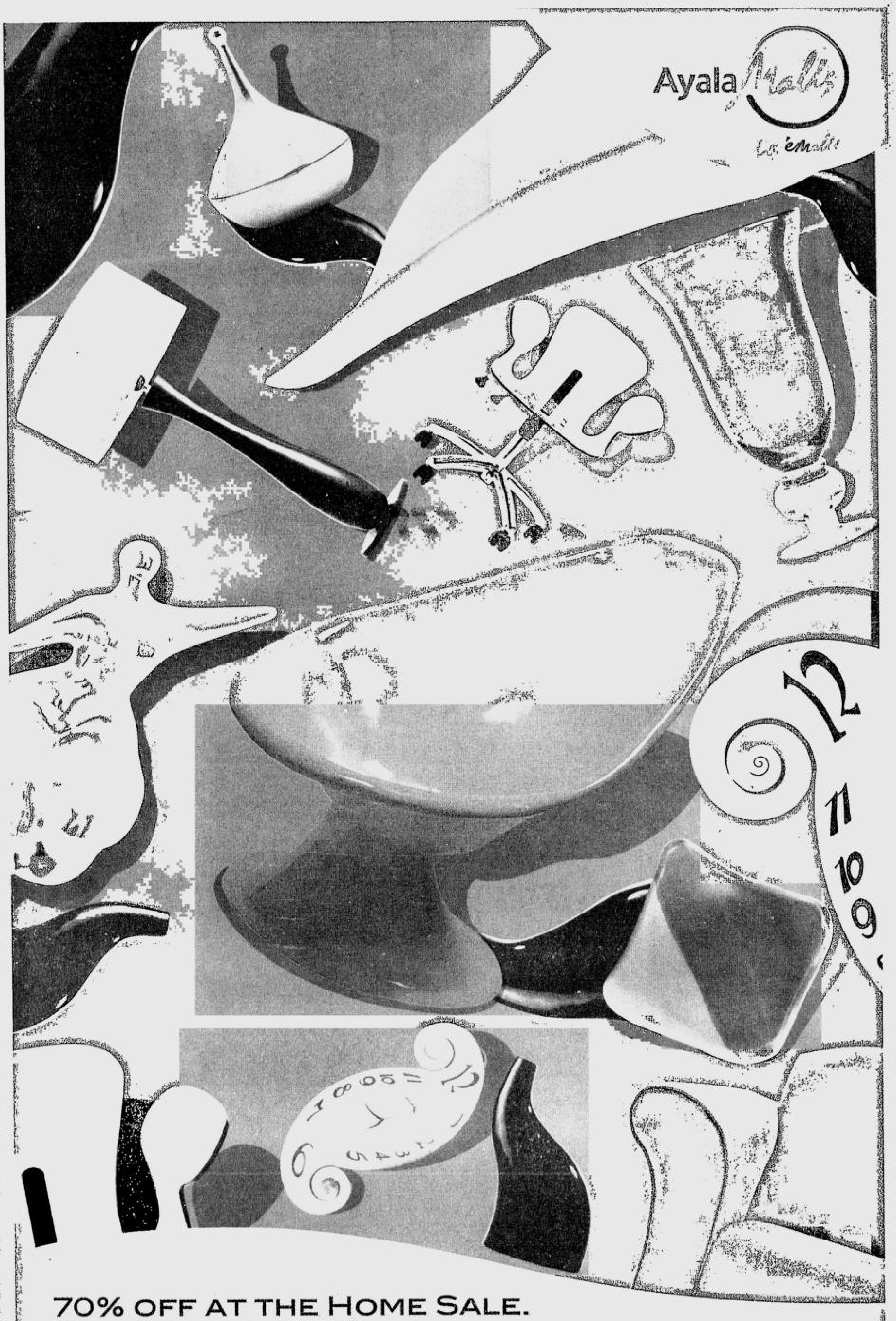
Gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people are still being demonized by the supposedly educated guardians of morality. It's especially infuriating when anti-gay sentiments directly come from recognized religious leaders. Almost five years ago, Rev. Jerry Falwell irresponsibly declared on "The 700 Club" that the 9/11 terrorist attacks were God's way of punishing their country. He lambasted his perceived culprits, people "who have tried to secularize America," among them "gays and lesbians who are actively trying to make that an alternative lifestyle." Pat Robertson, not surprisingly, agreed. You just have to wonder how they can be so judgmental and capable of spewing such vitriol, when their faith is supposed to be based on tolerance and understanding. It's actually dangerous when influential figures condemn unthinkingly and with impunity, because, let's face it, their words are canon. It's truly bizarre then, that the late Pope John Paul II and his successor Pope Benedict have both openly spoken against gay people and unions repeatedly, too. Does God really consider homosexual relationships an "ideology of evil," and "weak"? Isn't the deity supposed to be unconditionally gender-blind and more informed than that?

So many haters are eager to stereotype them, eager to warn others of their "unnatural" tendencies, eager to announce that they're all hell-bound. In this country, there are still companies that refuse to hire qualified gay persons. Cross-dressers are often heckled by janitors in comfort rooms, or are barred from certain establishments. A friend's homophobic co-worker commented last year that the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina was punishment for "the numerous homosexuals" in New Orleans. Wow. Talk about having mixed-up issues! When your sexuality or gender identity, an integral part of your being, is devalued or despised by someone else, whoever that may be, then speak up. Don't be afraid. Don't offer the other cheek. Call other people's attention to it. It is a big deal.

Alan Moore's "V for Vendetta" depicted a world where subversives and minorities were hatefully rounded up, including those whom the fascist government in that story considered sexual deviants. Prisoners were subjected to harrowing medical experiments and other indignities. Only about six decades back, in the real world, that has actually happened in Nazi concentration camps, to gay men, who had to wear identifying pink triangle badges. Today, same-gender relationships in parts of the world are still taboo; even consenting adults are actively arrested for it and subjected to unnecessary shaming. While we have pride parties for gays, certain countries have prison sentences for them.

If you are a gay person and you haven't done

HOMOPHOBIA/ D2



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FIND 'EM ALL HERE.

Get up to 70% discount on all furniture, fixtures and home accent pieces at Glorietta and Greenbelt from August 22 – 31.

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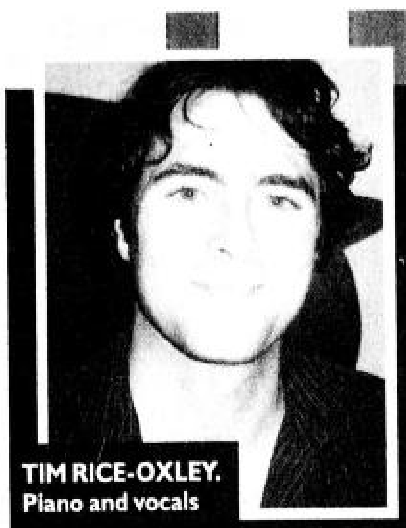
Greenbelt: About Design, Blim's Furniture, Firma, Soumak Bed 'N Beddings

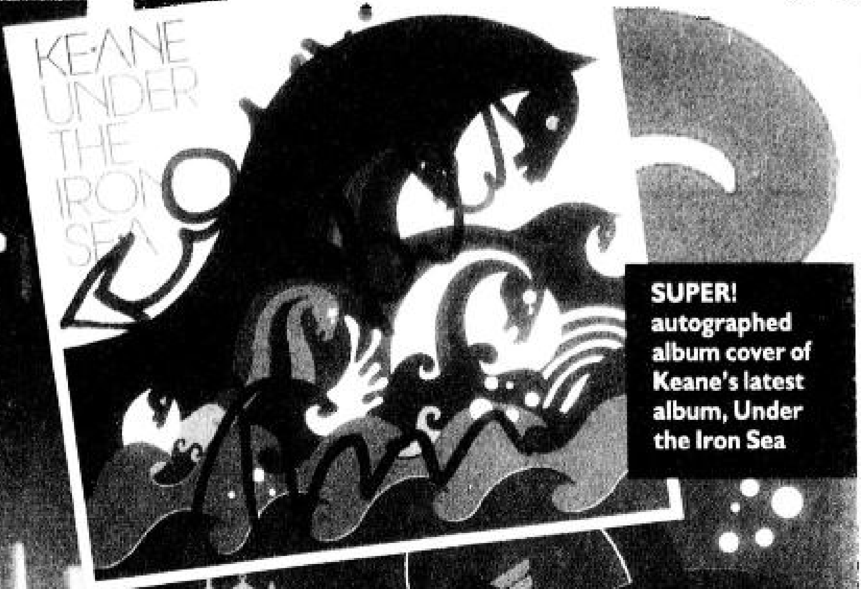
glorietta GREENBE

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A1-641, Series of 2006.

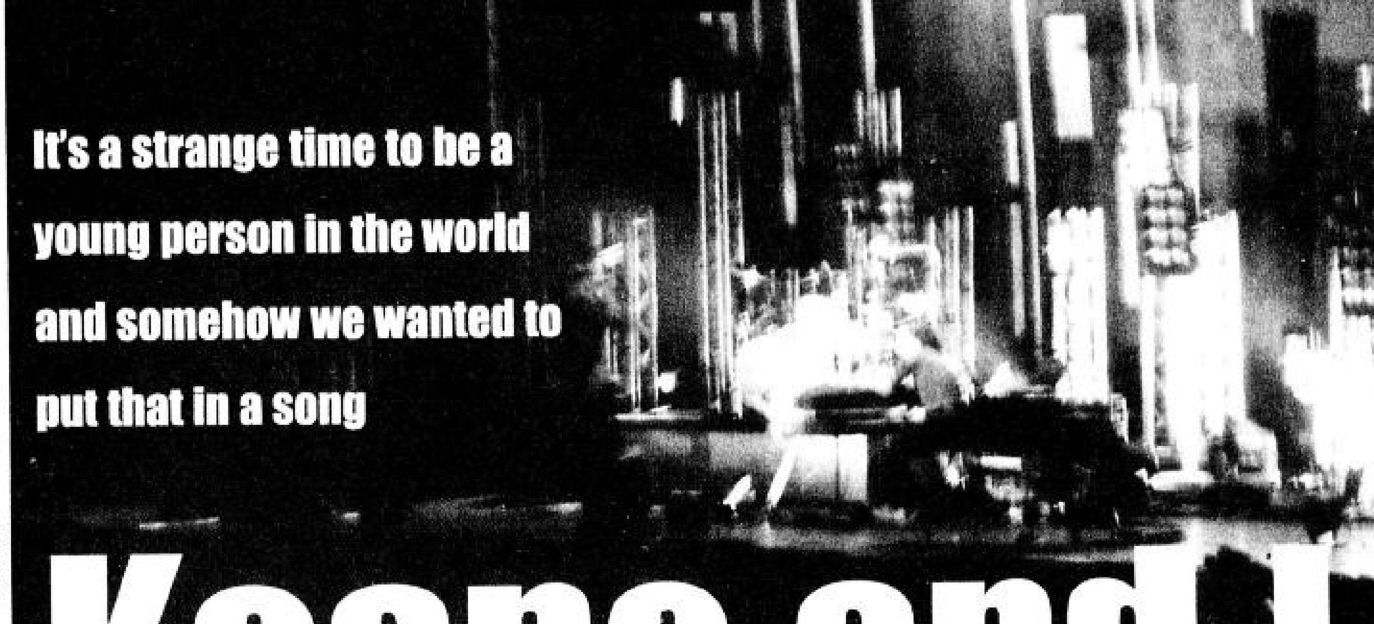

TIM RICE-OXLEY. Piano and vocals

TOM CHAPLIN. Vocals

RICHARD HUGHES. Drums and vocals



SUPER! autographed album cover of Keane's latest album, Under the Iron Sea



It's a strange time to be a young person in the world and somehow we wanted to put that in a song

Keane and I

'Under the Iron Sea'

KEANE and I in Bangkok before their concert

BACK IN THE DAY WHEN we were still doing Super! radio over at 103.5 K Lite FM, one song stayed at the number one slot for the longest time. It became sort of an emo anthem at that time, and the UK band Keane rose from oblivion to becoming one of the hottest alternative rock bands of the Super! generation.

Tim Yap

Yes, "Everybody's changing," we all know, but it was truly refreshing to meet **Tom Chaplin** (vocals), **Tim Rice-Oxley** (Piano/Bass/Vocals) and **Richard Hughes** (Drums/Vocals), otherwise known as the band Keane—and realize that they are just like you and me, only more expressive and sensitive.

"We're very, very English, very male. We don't talk to each other much," said Tom when we met in Club 88 at the Davis Hotel in Bangkok where the band was billeted. Okay, maybe the expressive part was a bit much.

Amid all the attention that the regional media devoted to them, the three Brit boys exuded a very down-to-earth demeanor, gamely posing and signing autographs and hopping from one interview after another, even if they had just gotten off a plane a few hours ago. "I'm surprised I'm not jetlagging!" Tom, the most outspoken of the trio, shared.

MCA MUSIC MUSE. Tom Chaplin and music maven Grace Minerva Foronda

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From 'Hopes and Fears'

"All the guitar places we would play at, we would still play there," Tim, the song writer of the group confides. "In the old days I would just churn out a song—now it has to be a potential album. I feel some pressure." And why not, when their first album, "Hopes and Fears" sold more than five million copies—without much promotion and fanfare at that. To top that, they even had sold-out gigs in New York's Radio City.

Not bad for a band whose members went to school together in and around a small town called "Battle" in the southeast of England.

"It's an amazing life, we're experiencing so much more than normal human beings," Tom talks about the trappings of rockstardom, "but people should understand that touring can be difficult."

"We were living with each other but not talking to each other. Things got quite hostile. So one time, we just sat at the back of the bus, just talked, had a discussion. We realized that talking is good." Hurrah to men who are not afraid to express themselves!

"Being on the road over the past couple of years has really educated us musically," enthused Richard. It was around this time when they came up with their new song "Crystal Ball," from their new album "Under the Iron Sea."

MUAY Thai exhibition before the press con

Summing up the state

Why "Under the Iron Sea"? "It was written at a time when we felt like robots, numb to the world and each other." Tom confessed. "Anxieties were locked in this unpredictable place. It summed up to the state where we are—under the iron sea."

I wanted to applaud because it was the first time I heard a band admit that they sometimes do not get along with each other, and not the standard "We're all the best of friends" line that most pop tarts dish out.

"It means a lot of feelings, or the lack of feelings we were feeling at that time." Now you see, the title of your album plays an important part in communicating your metaphors. Listening to Keane speak collectively, you sense the sincerity emanating from their very core. So when you hear them sing or watch them perform live, you know you're getting the real thing. It's from the gut. Nothing rehearsed or dictated by some record company executive.

JAMMING WITH THE BURMESE TRIPLETS. Mike Chua, Joel Dacanay and Eric Perpetua of Jam 88.3

MCA Universal, their record company sent me a copy of their new album, "Under the Iron Sea" and their inlay (amazing artwork by the way) and their songs formed was a bitter-sweet journey into beauty and darkness.

Crystal Ball

"Our music inspires so many different people, as we've come to discover," Tom waxes sentimental. "We'd like to reflect what people are feeling at the moment."

Their first single, playing soon at a station near you, is "Crystal Ball"—about being lost and unhappy and wanting to escape from it all. Sounds like the soundtrack of someone's life?

The music video for this song is about a guy who leaves for work, returns, and his identity is taken over by someone else.

No-boundaries music

One thing that has made their sound epic and unique is the non-usage of the guitar. "It's just that our guitarist left," explained Tim. "There are no boundaries that guide what we do. We'll do anything. Tim messed around with the piano to make it sound like something that no one's heard before," Richard explains their openness to a new sound.

Tim further exposes their soul as a band. "Using a guitar would be one of those things. If it sounds great, we'll do it. We're not limited, that's what makes us different musicians. We want to find ways of varying what we do live."

And see them live is exactly what I did, at Bangkok's Impact Arena where Keane fans from far and wide converged to watch them perform.

Watching them live is like attending a political rally with the lead singer going full capacity, with the lung power of a thousand activists. Tim's powerfully possessed thrusts set the piano ablaze while Richard's drum-beating can compete with the sound of canons being fired.

A call to arms

Together, they sing and speak of issues concerning the world today, like life evangelists out to change the world. No matter if their audience that night were predominantly non-English speaking Thais.

"There's a sense of powerlessness is on generation," Tim tells me the afternoon before the concert. "It's a strange time to be a young person in the world and somehow we wanted to put that in a song, as a call to arms for our generation."

The band realizes the power of their voice, and they know how to bring something good out of it. "We have a platform for people to hear what we have to say. Even if we're not a famous band I would still write songs like these." Tim feels that his pen is indeed mightier than any politician's sword.

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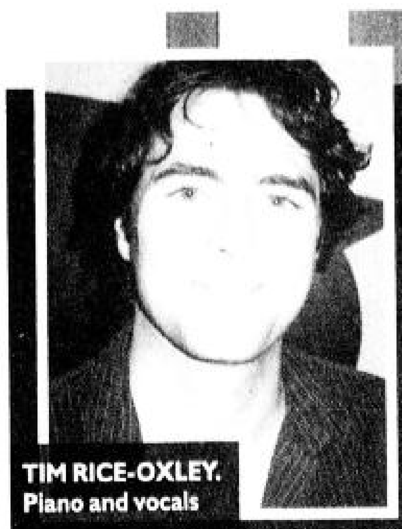

TIM RICE-OXLEY. Piano and vocals

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RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME

Digital discourse

After Isagani Cruz's column last week, the local blogosphere exploded with posts about homophobia. Here are some excerpts

ONE OF THE BEST things about the Internet is how it has given everyone a voice.

After Isagani Cruz's column last week, the local blogosphere exploded with posts about homophobia. Here are some excerpts.

'Why is homosexuality still a big deal?'

Lance Bass of Nsync came out. One of Westlife's members came out. Rustom Padilla came out. There are so many openly gay personalities both here and abroad.

Many members of the Pink Population have made very significant contributions to society … a lot of them in areas traditionally dominated by straight guys or girls.

All these prove a point that the pink population is no different from the rest of us … we're all human beings."

–http://www.rgcruz.com/

"If your requisite for respect is for a gay person to act discreetly, then you can take that worthless word and have it for yourself. Should a gay person act indiscreetly, it is not tantamount to flagrant behavior either. I have been raised by a wonderful family, schooled in one of the best schools in the country, and I am disappointed by your ignorance and lack of tact.

Yes, there are very blatant homosexuals who express their flamboyancies in scales which are unimaginable to the straight eye; however, these are the same emotions and personalities which can be commended for truthfulness, rather than pretension. What is wrong with you, and with those who share your belief, is that you judge a certain culture with such hypocrisy.

Clearly, you need to study more; but this time, you need to study how to be a person."

–http://jcv000.multiply.com

"I am sure you are familiar with Herman Melville. You know, the writer of the first modern novel Moby Dick? How about Michelangelo Buonarotti? Of course, he, along with Leonardo Da Vinci and Rafael, are the great masters of art whose prodigious body of works have inspired countless artists hence. Michelangelo can write a passionate sonnet, too! Speaking of passion, how about Edna St. Vincent Millay's poetry or Willa Carther's sweeping epics about the prairies? You studied Socrates and Aristotle in school. Perhaps, you saw Lino Brocka's incendiary films of poverty and exploitation? Or how about the wit of Ishmael Bernal? Lawrence of Arabia helped unified the disparate Arab tribes thus help forming the modern Arab states. I'm sure you once bobbed to the music of Cole Porter.

They were all homosexual. And the list goes on.

Coincidentally, West Point, America's and purportedly one of the world's finest Military Academy had a historic milestone last week. A graduating student earned best thesis on his study about the inclusion of gays in the Military. The military school graduate said of his study that American policy of exclusion of homosexuals is a disservice to the military.

The student, Alexander Raggio earned the Brigadier General Carroll E. Adams Award for the best senior thesis in the art, philosophy, and literature major in the academy's English department. Raggio commented: "I have a problem where you have a military that says you can't discriminate based on race; in all but very minimal ways you can't discriminate based on gender; and you can't discriminate based on religion or lack of religion. The only people not getting a fair shake were homosexuals."

–http://nastypen.wordpress.com

What's wrong with being a pansy?

Most people view a pansy as someone weak, someone who can't fight for himself. The term, itself, is derived from a type of flower with velvety petals—the cultivated variety of which came from a wild flower called Heartsease. By its very nature, flowers are delicate and (for lack of a better term) squishy. Because of this, all effiminate boys have been labelled pansies—a tradition we could attribute to the British.

In many of Shakespeare's plays, the pansy is a symbol of love. In "A Midsummer Night's Dream" the pansy's juice actually becomes a love potion. One of the original names for the pansy is actually love-in-idleness, which connotes a love that is asleep and dormant—if only the world were ready for our brand of love.

So why not think of the pansy as someone frail, but beautiful; as someone who's heart is untapped, but is willing to give love to anyone worthy. With these connotations, I can therefore proclaim, with pride, that I am a pansy. A lovely, wild, velvet pansy. And as for creating a flag made entirely of delicate lace, I'm for it. But I do draw the lines at ruffles.

–http://mikeetraviata.blogspot.com

We like to think that we are democrats who live in a more understanding and democratic society. The test of a democrat is how well one can tolerate views that are anathema to one's one. And debunk or refute such contrary ideas with ideas of your own.

I can understand and empathize with the rage and anger felt by the parties injured by Mr. Cruz's article. However, when battling intolerance, one must be careful not becoming intolerant oneself.

–http://baratillo.net

i am Super
i am Super
i am Super

Awards, artists, artistas and other A's that rock your world

FOR THE PAST three years, Super has been handing out awards to Super people, icons and groups who have been rocking our world in many different ways. Just in the past couple of weeks, our awardees have been doing us proud—with Paolo Pineda staging an exhibit at the Rockwell Power Plant, with Team Manila opening their store in Rockwell and Amina Aranaz creating a bigger showcase for her beautiful bags.

We realized that while we were enjoying the power of being able to give tribute to people who we think are making a difference, you probably have your own list of people, icons and groups that you want to award as well. And that is why we launched Super's People's Choice Awards.

For weeks, we asked you to tell us who you think deserves an award. And that's exactly what you did.

On Aug. 27, at The Loft in Rockwell, we will be putting the spotlight on who you said rocks your world.

And because Super believes that words and trophies are not enough, we will also be holding KC Concepcion's Artists' Fair on the same day, at the same place, to give young Filipino talent the venue to exhibit their creations, sell their wares and show off their Super selves.

And because you're Super too, we know we're gonna see you there.

Homophobia is hell

From page D1

so already, speak up and keep making your horror to such injustices known. You don't have to out yourself if you feel that it's an inconvenient time, but try to reach out to others who can speak for you. It is very fortunate and important that there are active gay advocacy groups in the Philippines now such as ProGay, Ang Ladlad, The Library Foundation, LAGABLAB, and several other tireless organizations that continue to fight for various GLBT rights, and are working for the passage of a bill that would criminalize discrimination. The Rainbow Rights Project, a group of lawyers and activists, is distributing free "Pink Cards," which lists your rights as a bar patron, and related info that can protect you from corrupt or fake law enforcers. Arm yourself with knowledge. Google these groups, learn from them and support them.

Be proud

And if someone cites some verses from Leviticus to condemn you (like a politician did in a local debate show just two years ago), respond by saying that he or she is deliberately ignoring sexist and barbaric customs in nearby passages. Look them up. They're there.

It's also very important to love yourself. Be proud that you are truthful, free, and aren't doing anyone harm.

To parents who think that this is none of their concern, please think again. If you suspect that your children may be suffering in silence, talk to them. Go beyond what your elders taught you. Your child can be gay, or not gay, regardless if he or she is acting effeminately or in a masculine manner. Face your fears and understand them, and assure them that you will be willing to listen. Gayness is not a disease or a condition that can be "cured."

The reality of it is, unbeknownst to you, your teen son or daughter may be involved with someone for months or years already, and they have plans to start their own family one day. They may be hoping their union will be recognized without question in the future, with benefits that straight spouses enjoy. Yes, homosexual relationships aren't destructive, as imagined by those who are narrow-minded and insecure about the matter.

Role model

If your gay child wishes to be the next Isaac Mizrahi—or the next Ellen DeGeneres, Q. Allan Brocka, Rustom Padilla, RuPaul, Andoy Ranay, Allan Heinberg, Aiza Seguerra, Bruce Vilanch, Rosie O'Donnell, Rufus Wainwright, Bryan Singer, Manuel Quezon III, Ricky Reyes, Melissa Etheridge, Darren Hayes, Clive Barker—applaud him! Your kid chose a role model well, and shows fortitude and honesty at an early age. Good gay people, just like good straight people, have been, and will always be challenged to think around the conventional and traditional to survive and make the world better.

It is elating and empowering that there are many people who are now more accepting of differences, and are celebrating the gay spectrum's contributions to all parts of culture. It's also great that gay people are acknowledging their identities, and not just at gay-friendly and gay-frequented districts. But it doesn't end there. Let's continue to speak against the bitter, dinosaur gay-bashers. Let's use our words and actions to rescue, heal, and enlighten others before damaging words lead, once again, to sticks, stones, and worse.

In this day and age, there are still gay kids and adults suffering the same savage bullying and intolerance, regardless of their nationality, race, or religious affiliation

Manila Pride
Manila Philippines
August 19 2006
featuring
Masterbeat
www.circuitasia.com

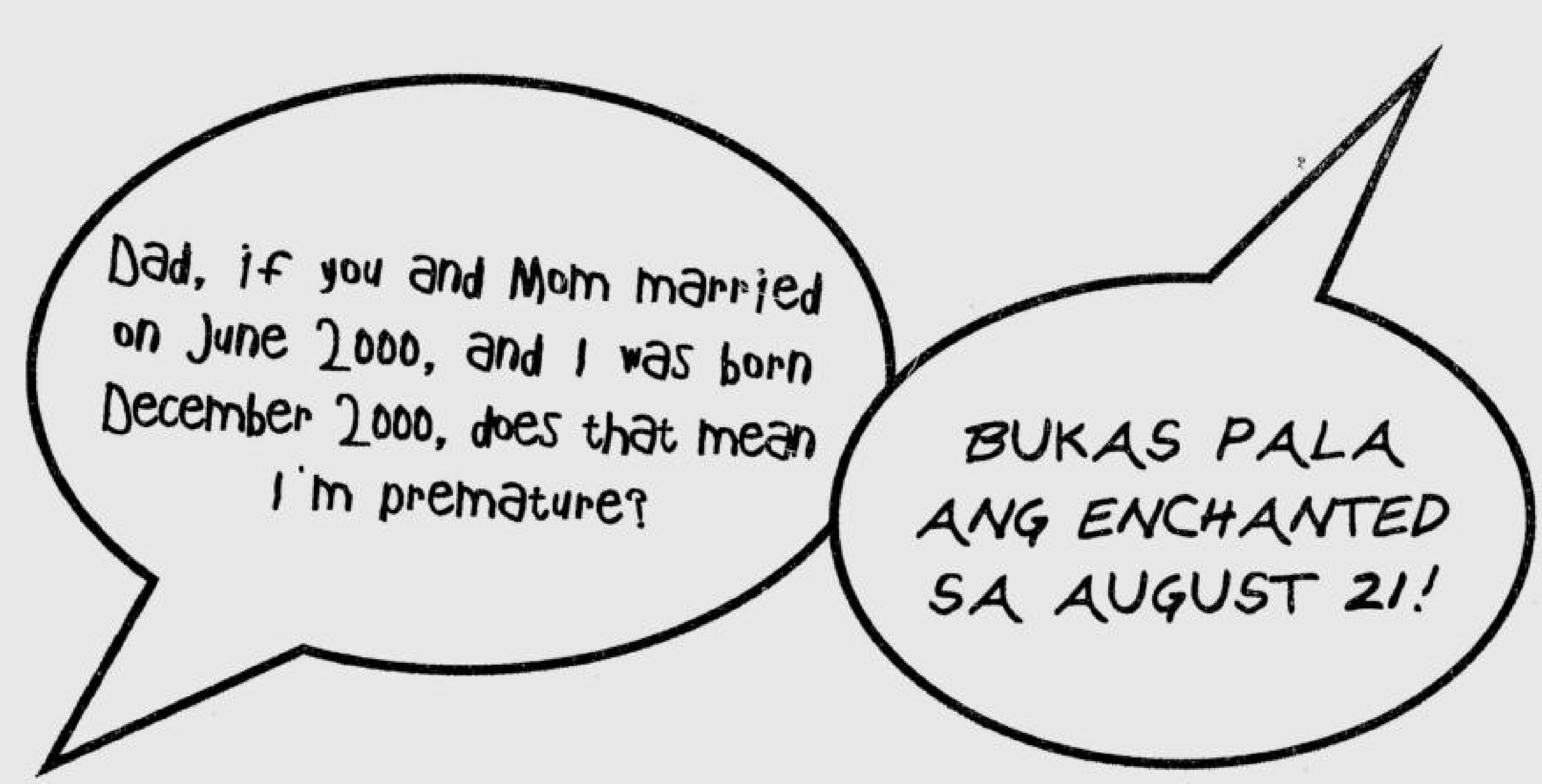
Are you ready for Manila Pride?

COME OUT AND RAISE THE RAINBOW FLAG WITH CircuitAsia at Manila Pride on Aug. 19 at the Philippine Trade Training Center (PTTC) in Roxas Boulevard. The event will feature Masterbeat, house music that will surely electrify partyphiles and world-class performers who will titillate your inner pink, Manila Pride will be a vibrant celebration of diversity, equality, and unity.

Based in Los Angeles, Masterbeat is a premiere record label that showcases refreshingly fun and high energy house music. It has been featured in major circuit events in the US, including Gay Days Orlando, New York Pride Pier Dance, San Diego Zoo Party, Cherry 8, and many more. Masterbeat has also been widely acclaimed, crossing over to the international mainstream—Ibiza, London, Sydney, Sao Paulo, and now: Manila!

Net proceeds raised from Manila Pride will fund CircuitAsia's main beneficiary, the Gift Foundation, which advocates for HIV/AIDS Awareness and Youth/Talent Development. Manila Pride is presented by CircuitAsia in cooperation with Generation Pink Magazine and Fabuloush.com, and with the support of Blue Soda, Yehey.com, Moschino Parfum, Powerbooks, Top & Bottom, Che'lu, Jefz Café, Pride Exchange, Solanie Hotel, Sanctuario Spa, Bed and Club Government.

Ticket prices are P300. For more information about CircuitAsia's Manila Pride, please call 889-7877 or e-mail info@circuitasia.com or log on to www.circuitasia.com.


Dad, if you and Mom married on June 2000, and I was born December 2000, does that mean I'm premature?
BUKAS PALA ANG ENCHANTED SA AUGUST 21!

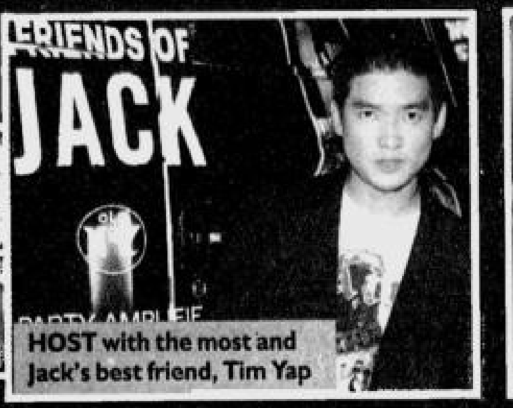
This August 21, the park will be open from 10am-7pm. You can also enjoy extended fun with our new schedule starting August 16 to December 10; 10am-7pm on Wednesdays to Fridays and 10am-10pm on Saturdays and Sundays. Enchanted Kingdom – the perfect distraction.

10 Years Enchanted Kingdom
The magic stays with you.

IAAPA A proud member since 1992 Park Address: San Lorenzo South, City of Santa Rosa, Laguna • Makati Sales Office: Ground Floor, The Biltmore Condominium, 102 Aguirre St., Legaspi Vil., Makati City. Tel. Nos. 830-21-11 to 16 and 843-60-74 to 78 www.enchantedkingdom.com.ph

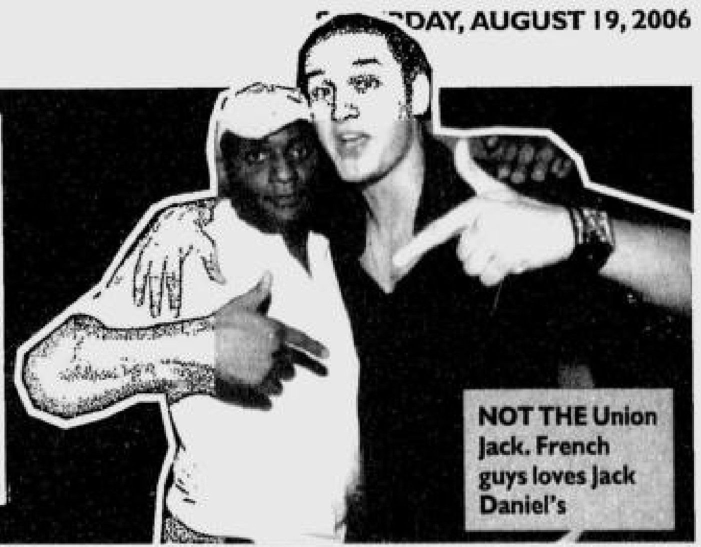
ROBBY Manaquil

MICH Dulce and Cecile Zamora



HOST with the most and Jack's best friend, Tim Yap

BUBBLES Paraiso


NOT THE Union Jack. French guys loves Jack Daniel's

Good ole friendly Jack

By David Milan

THE STORMY SEASON may have arrived but Jack Daniel's created serious heat last Aug. 11 at the The Fort Plaza as they kicked off the regional campaign of Friends of Jack (FOJ). Guests were treated to a unique party experience flooded with great music, good vibes and the best whiskey in the world. Mike-Cons of BBC played his signature baby-makin' SouLounge music to set the mood for the great night to come. Later on, he signaled the start of the debauchery, giving everybody's ears a musical licking with the sweet sensual Nu Soul groove of his band, Mike's Apartment. Indie jazz fusion band, Sound, came next with their smooth, soothing originals. Capping the night off was the music of one of the local scene's hot bands, Up Dharma Down, which closed the night in a powerful storm-stopping performance. And no happening party would be truly considered a happening party without overflowing drinks the whole night long. Jack Daniel's generously served everyone as they showcased their five kinds of drink concoctions that had everybody staying till late.

You can get your Jack Daniel's fix in select bars and restos. Just buy a bottle of Jack Daniel's and win an instant prize. You may also get a raffle ticket, which gives you the chance to win cool prizes like USB watches, Oakley sunglasses, iPod Videos, Ultra Mobile PCs, and a Harley Davidson XL - 1200R Sportster. You can also get a Friends of Jack card, which opens up a whole world of exclusive party privileges in destinations around Southeast Asia. Just flash your card in any of the participating establishments in the Philippines, Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Singapore to get freebies, discounts, previews and updates.

INDIE Band, Sound

UP Dharma Down

GIAN Romano

---

convenience shopping closer to home

SM Supercenter Pasig

shopping directory

Ace Hardware • Watsons • SM Hypermarket • Quantum amusement • Astroplus audio / video • Banco De Oro • Books for Less • Office Warehouse • food / restaurants Country Waffles • Icings • Life Coffee & Tea • Gonuts Donuts • Coffee Nook • Little Poon • Century Chinese Drugstore • Ophthal-Mix • Photoline photography / developing • LBC Express • News Barbers • Tooth Spa • Toby's sporting goods • Globe telecommunications • Aficionado Scents & Fragrances • Bag Tag • Candy Corner • Fruits N' Waffles • Key Cards • Sondrik • Soy Yummy carts

The newest addition to the dynamic chain of SM Malls, SM Supercenter Pasig answers the need for a strategically-located one-stop shop for the household and day-to-day needs of residents in neighboring villages.

Straddling a rolling terrain along E. Rodriguez, Jr. Avenue in Brgy. Ugong in Pasig City, SM Supercenter Pasig is also a convenient stop-over for private vehicle commuters who ply the C-5, Ortigas and Katipunan routes.

A complete range of merchandise, less crowded environment, and basement parking all add up to making SM Supercenter Pasig the "stop-over" destination for the basic or urgent needs of motorists and residents of nearby communities.

opening day events

10am	-	11am	Dragon Dance
11am	-	3pm	Banda Kawayan
4pm	-	9pm	Vince Lahorra with the Jazz Samba Artists

win @ SM Hypermarket

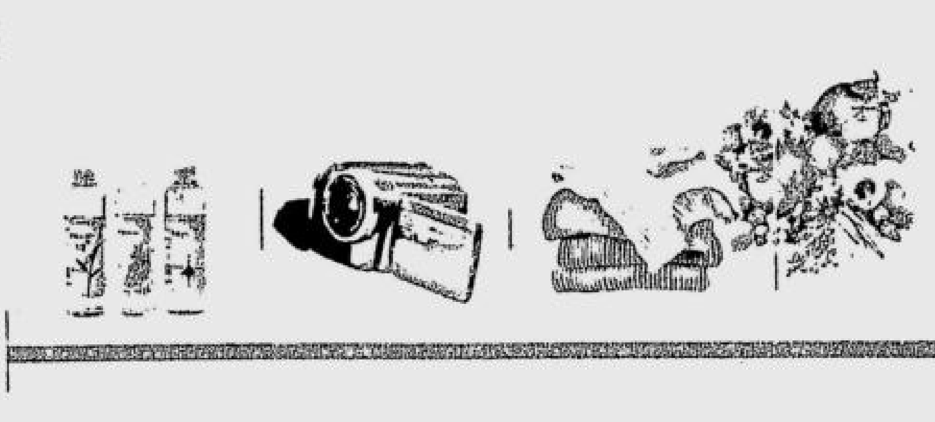
Start your day at SM Hypermarket Pasig and get a chance to win any of these prizes: 50 scooters, 30 sun glasses, 20 DVD's.

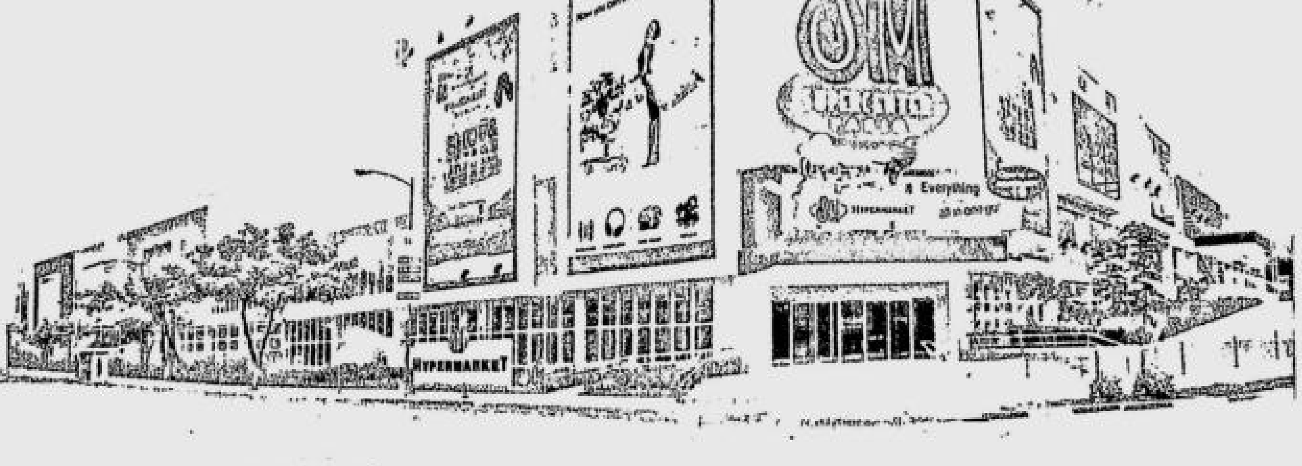
Every P500 minimum single receipt purchase at SM Hypermarket Pasig entitles you to join the 3 Day Raffle promo!

Now you can shop closer to home

SM
SUPERCENTER
PASIG

NOW OPEN

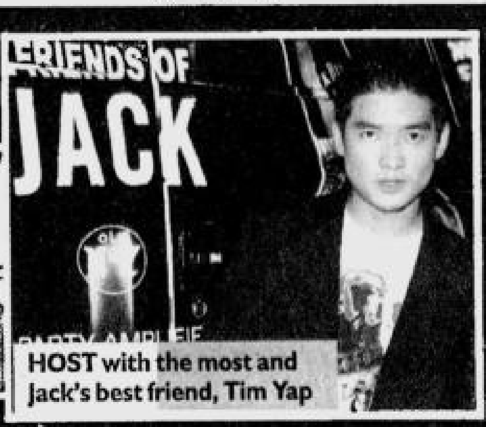




FRONTERA VERDE, C5, BGY. UGONG, PASIG CITY

ROBBY Manaquil

MICH Dulce and Cecile Zamora



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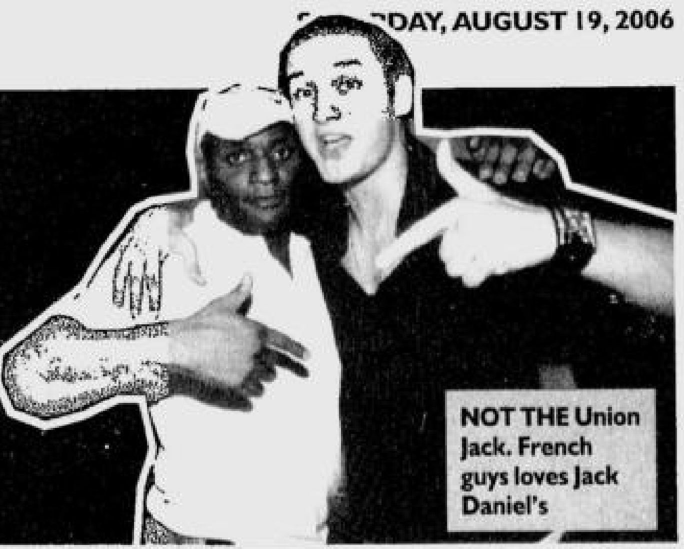
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FRIENDS OF
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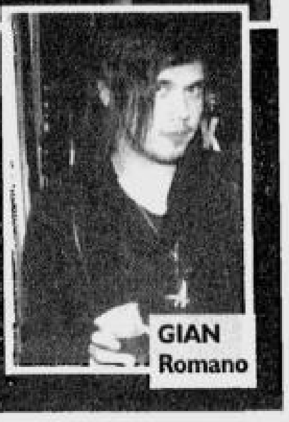
INDIE Band, Sound

UP Dharma Down


GIAN Romano

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Now you can shop closer to home

SM
SUPERCENTER
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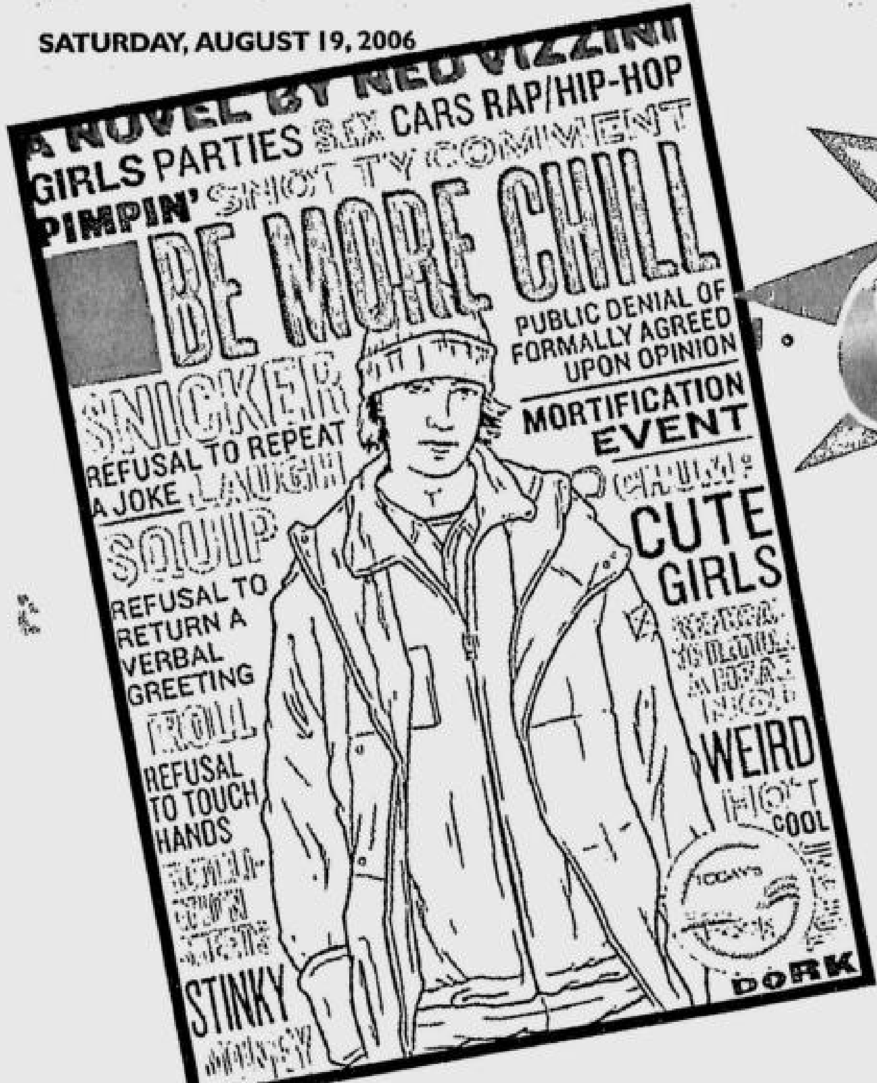
NOW OPEN

SM
HYPERMARKET

FRONTERA VERDE, C5, BGY. UGONG, PASIG CITY

RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME


A NOVEL BY NED VIZZINI
GIRLS PARTIES SEX CARS RAP/HIP-HOP
PIMPIN' SNOTTY COMMENT
BE MORE CHILL
PUBLIC DENIAL OF FORMALLY AGREED UPON OPINION
SNICKER
REFUSAL TO REPEAT A JOKE
LAUGH
MORTIFICATION EVENT
CHUM
SQUIP
CUTE GIRLS
REFUSAL TO RETURN A VERBAL GREETING
ROLL
WEIRD
REFUSAL TO TOUCH HANDS
HOT
COOL
STINKY
DORK

CHILLATES. Like "Catcher In The Rye" for the YouTube generation, Ned Vizzini's "Be More Chill" (P384, Fully Booked) is a mine of quirky inspiration

10 tenets to purge the stress from your life and binge on this thing called inspiration

MOODY-TWO-SHOES. A sample of my mood or idea board, which is always a work in progress

The Relaxatives

Age against the machine

Gino de la Paz

THERE COMES A time in everyone's life when the hunt for the Next Awesome Idea turns into a futile attempt. Those who live by the pen call it writer's block. Painters, designers, and fellow temperamental souls attribute it to the absence of a muse. Other creative types refer to it as a snag, slump, or the end of the world. I know the last one's a little too heavy on the melodrama, but whatever.

Well, I've also had my share of artistic hiccups and baby burnouts and I'll tell you, it's really a bummer. However, it doesn't stay a bummer for long because I've zeroed in on what causes the mind's eye to go temporarily blind: stress. Not Internet porn, mind you, but stress.

Think about it: A calm mind is more fertile and can spawn more ideas than a fried one. And look, that brings me nicely to my point. I have come up with ten tenets—not plucked out of thin air (or my ass), but crafted after minutes, I mean, hours of painstaking scientific research—to help purge stress from your young existence so you can finally binge on this thing called inspiration.

Fine, the quality of said tenets remains questionable but again, whatever. What matters is, after following my tips, you will attain much-needed mental stimulation which may (or may not) lead you to cause a little mischief. Bottom line? Your noggin can liberate itself from the tricky spot it has parallel-parked into. My advice may sound alien to you at first, so don't panic and continue reading. After all, when in doubt, I always say repeat, repeat, repeat.

Read stuff without pictures.

I know. Soaking up the photos in a magazine—I call it snack reading—is way easier than taking in words from a book. But sometimes, cracking the spine of a new novel and diving into a sea of dark gray fonts help slow things down a bit, giving that hamster in your head a break from running in the wheel. Well, so to speak.

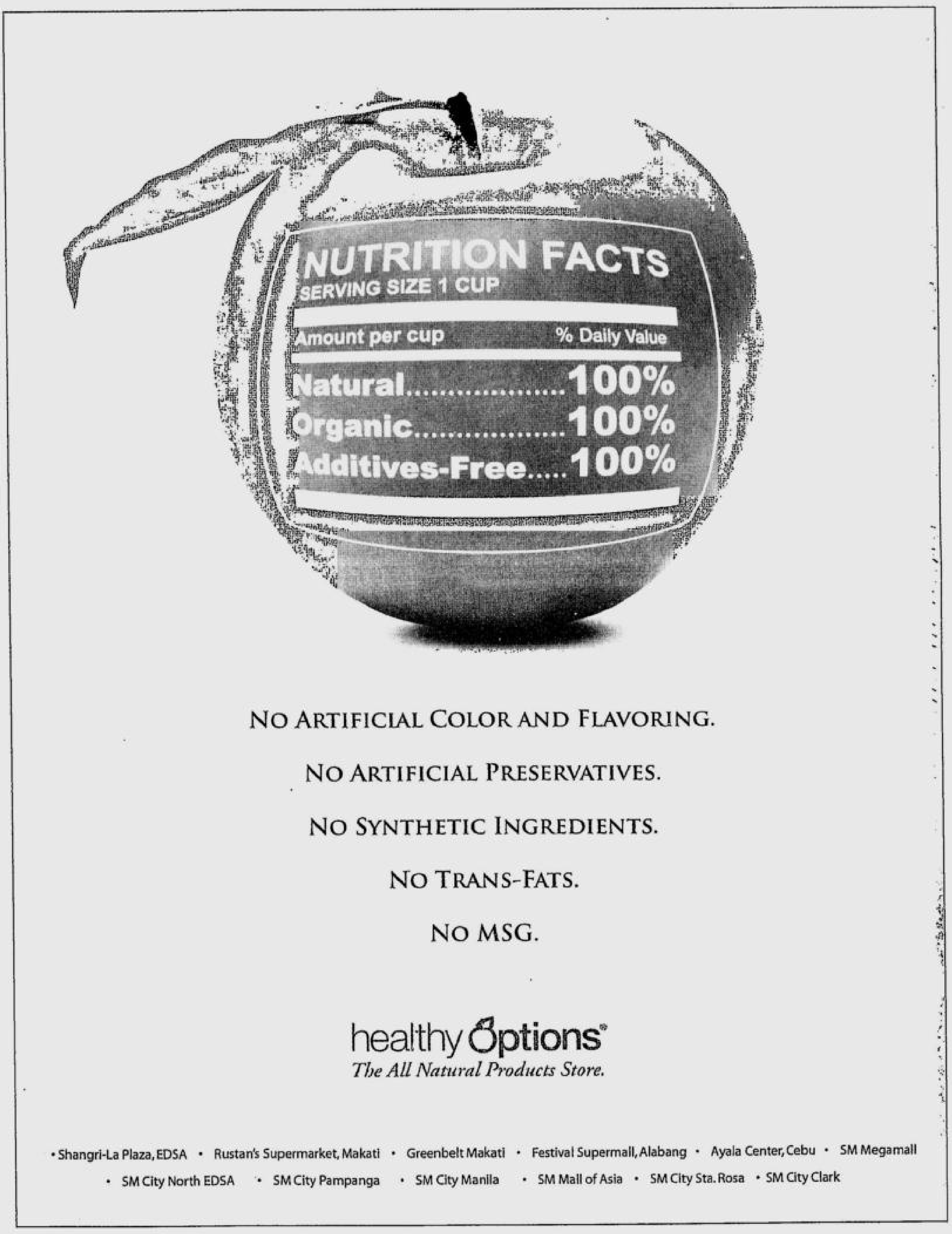
Lately, I decided to put my own dorky enthusiasm into practice by attempting to read stuff without pictures. The good news? My nose hasn't bled yet from deciphering the big words. Respect! In fact, I've practically powerbonded with Ned Vizzini's "Be More Chill" (P384, Fully Booked), a slick coming-of-age tome about a high school geek who turns into the coolest guy in class after swallowing a pill-size supercomputer. What drew me in (aside from the ace cover, of course) was the lead character, Jeremy Heere, a modern-day, pop culture-savvy Holden Caulfield. (Hey, even Ashton Kutcher gets a shout-out on page 175.)

On a slightly more retro—meaning '90s—note, C.D. Payne's "Youth In Revolt: The Journals of Nick Twisp" (P862, Fully Booked) is another title I've finally torn through. Originally released thirteen years ago, the plot—teens, California, and sarcasm—has made it an enduring noir comedy in book form. It's pimp, my friends. Pee-yump.

Then turn it into a movie in your mind.

While we're on the subject, there's more to reading than a flashing moment of intellectu-

THE RELAXATIVES/ E4


NUTRITION FACTS
SERVING SIZE 1 CUP
Amount per cup
% Daily Value
Natural.................100%
Organic.................100%
Additives-Free.....100%

NO ARTIFICIAL COLOR AND FLAVORING.
NO ARTIFICIAL PRESERVATIVES.
NO SYNTHETIC INGREDIENTS.
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Promo is valid in all SM Supermalls and other selected Jollibee stores nationwide.
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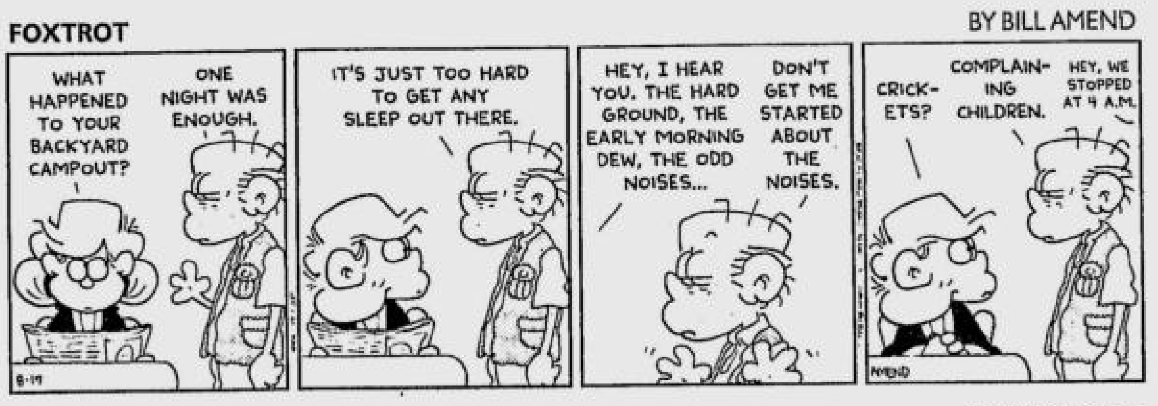
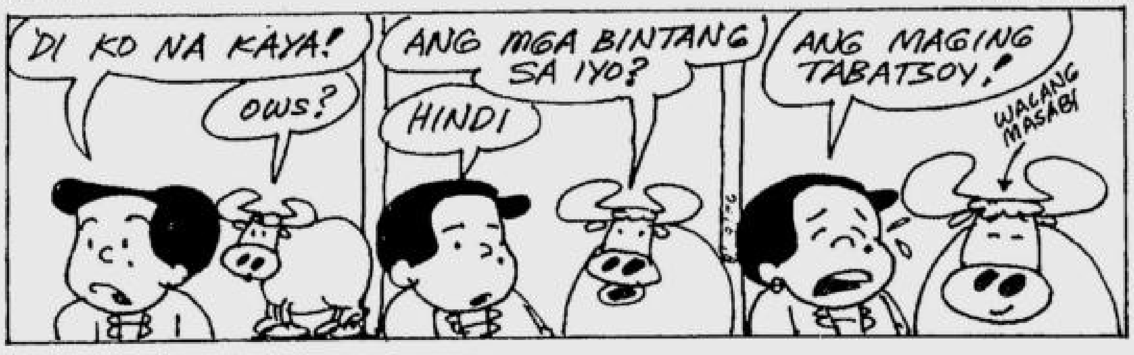
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR BACKYARD CAMPOUT?
ONE NIGHT WAS ENOUGH.
IT'S JUST TOO HARD TO GET ANY SLEEP OUT THERE.
HEY, I HEAR YOU. THE HARD GROUND, THE EARLY MORNING DEW, THE ODD NOISES...
DON'T GET ME STARTED ABOUT THE NOISES.
CRICK-ETS?
COMPLAIN-ING CHILDREN.
HEY, WE STOPPED AT 4 A.M.
8-19
AMEND

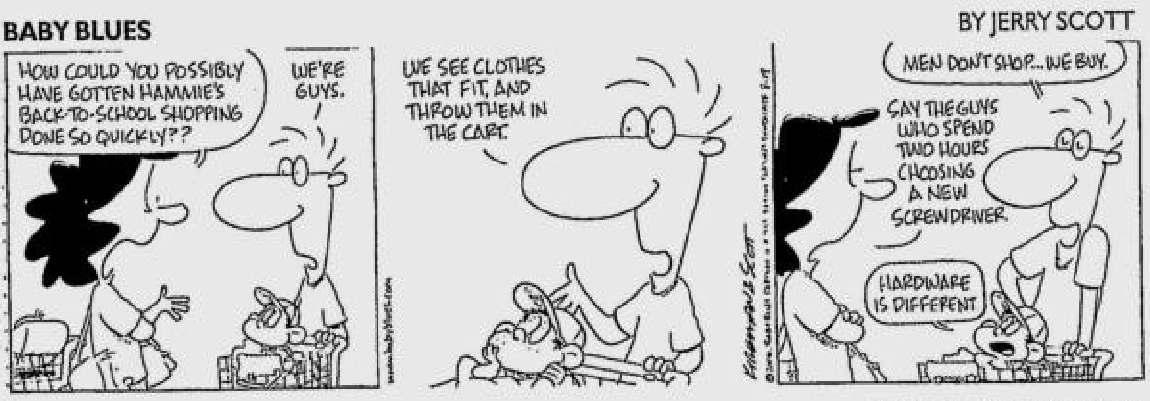
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


'DI KO NA KAYA!
OWS?
ANG MGA BINTANG SA IYO?
HINDI
ANG MAGING TABATSOY!
WALANG MASABI

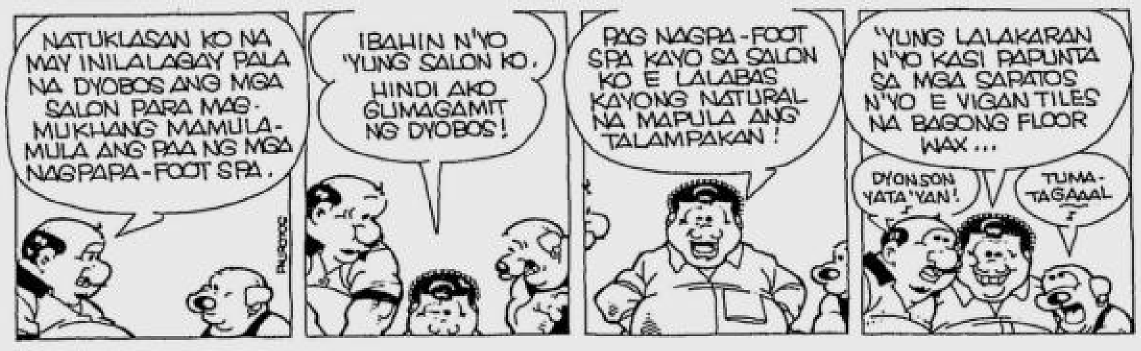
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


HOW COULD YOU POSSIBLY HAVE GOTTEN HAMMIE'S BACK-TO-SCHOOL SHOPPING DONE SO QUICKLY??
WE'RE GUYS.
WE SEE CLOTHES THAT FIT, AND THROW THEM IN THE CART.
MEN DON'T SHOP... WE BUY.
SAY THE GUYS WHO SPEND TWO HOURS CHOOSING A NEW SCREWDRIVER.
HARDWARE IS DIFFERENT.

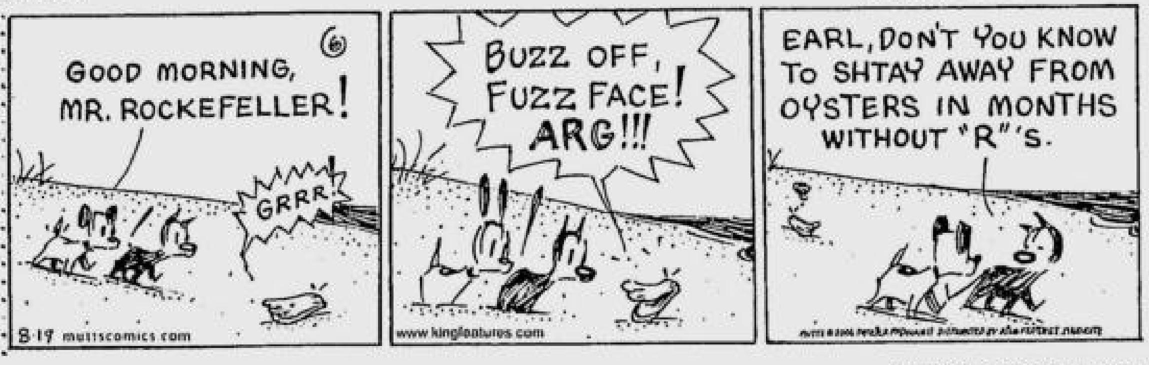
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


NATUKLASAN KO NA MAY INILALAGAY PALA NA DYOBOS ANG MGA SALON PARA MAG-MUKHANG MAMULA-MULA ANG PAA NG MGA NAGPAPA-FOOT SPA.
IBAHIN N'YO 'YUNG SALON KO. HINDI AKO GUMAGAMIT NG DYOBOS!
PAG NAGPA-FOOT SPA KAYO SA SALON KO E LALABAS KAYONG NATURAL NA MAPULA ANG TALAMPAKAN!
'YUNG LALAKARAN N'YO KASI PAPUNTA SA MGA SAPATOS N'YO E VIGAN TILES NA BAGONG FLOOR WAX...
DYONSON YATA 'YAN!
TUMA-TAGAAAL

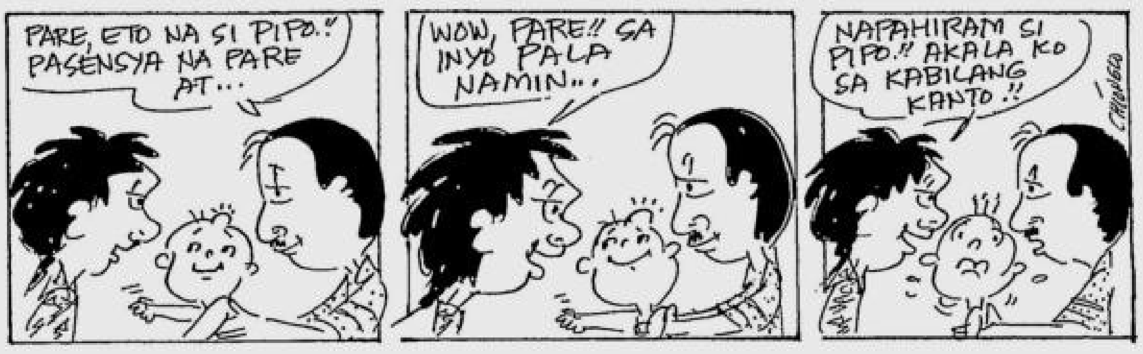
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


GOOD MORNING, MR. ROCKEFELLER!
GRRR
BUZZ OFF, FUZZ FACE! ARG!!!
EARL, DON'T YOU KNOW TO SHTAY AWAY FROM OYSTERS IN MONTHS WITHOUT "R"'S.
8-19 muttscomics.com
www.kingfeatures.com

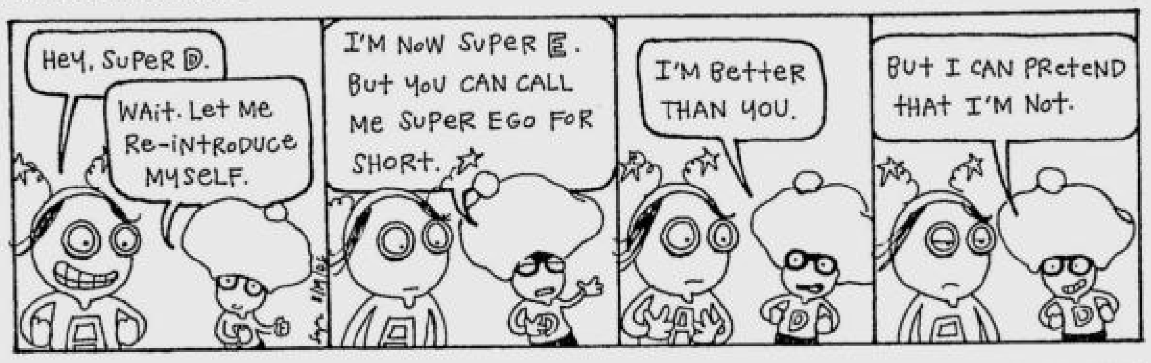
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


PARE, ETO NA SI PIPO.!! PASENSYA NA PARE AT...
WOW, PARE!! SA INYO PALA NAMIN...
NAPAHIRAM SI PIPO.!! AKALA KO SA KABILANG KANTO.!!
CHIONGLO

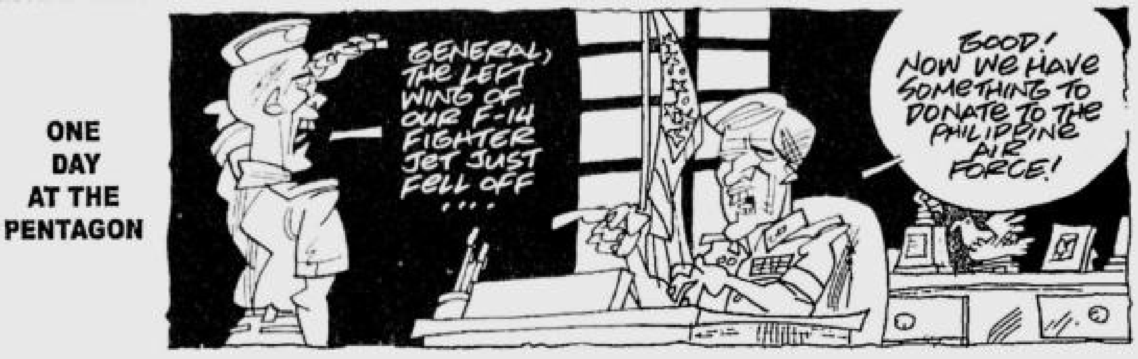
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Hey, SuPeR D.
WAit. Let Me Re-iNtRoDuce MySeLF.
I'M NoW SuPeR E. But you CAN CALL Me SuPeR EGO FoR SHoRt.
I'M Better THAN you.
But I CAN PRetenD that I'M Not.

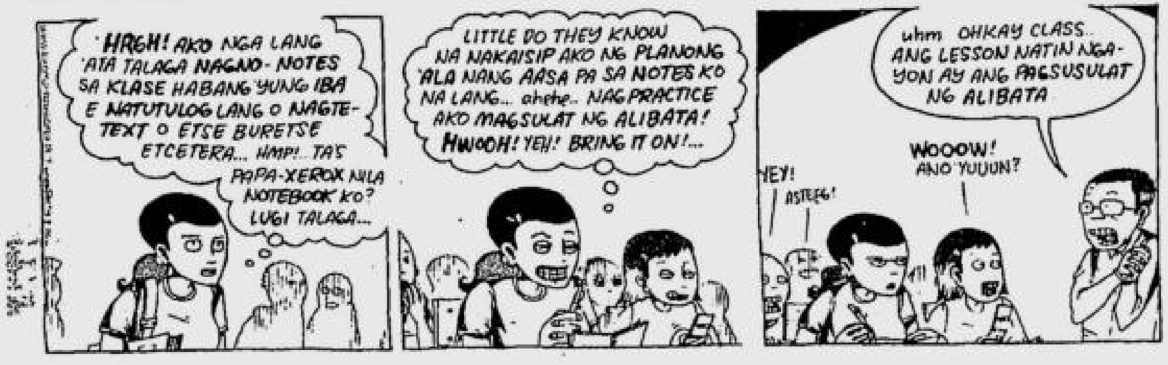
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


ONE DAY AT THE PENTAGON
GENERAL, THE LEFT WING OF OUR F-14 FIGHTER JET JUST FELL OFF...
GOOD! NOW WE HAVE SOMETHING TO DONATE TO THE PHILIPPINE AIR FORCE!

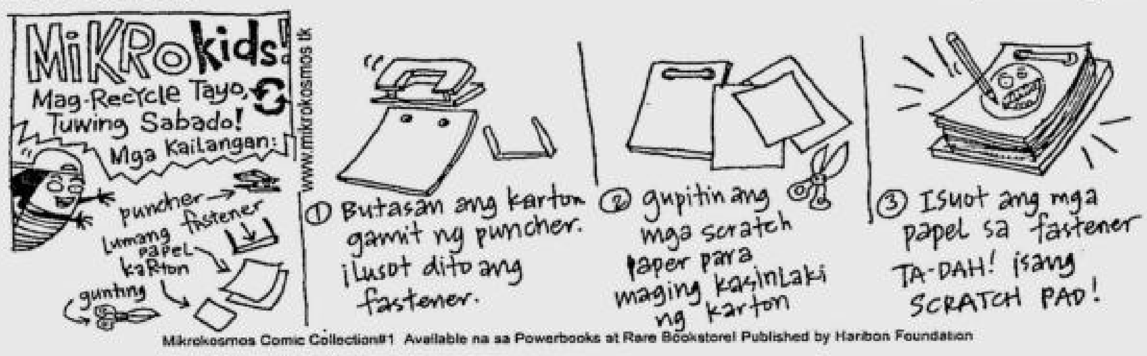
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


'HAGH! AKO NGA LANG 'ATA TALAGA NAGNO-NOTES SA KLASE HABANG 'YUNG IBA E NATUTULOG LANG O NAGTE-TEXT O ETSE BURETSE ETCETERA... HMP!.. TA'S PAPA-XEROX NILA NOTEBOOK KO? LUGI TALAGA...
LITTLE DO THEY KNOW NA NAKAISIP AKO NG PLANONG 'ALA NANG AASA PA SA NOTES KO NA LANG... ehehe.. NAGPRACTICE AKO MAGSULAT NG ALIBATA! HWOOH! YEH! BRING IT ON!...
uhm OHKAY CLASS.. ANG LESSON NATIN NGAYON AY ANG PAGSUSULAT NG ALIBATA
HEY!
ASTEEG!
WOOOW! ANO YUUUN?

MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO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Lumang papel
fastener
karton
gunting
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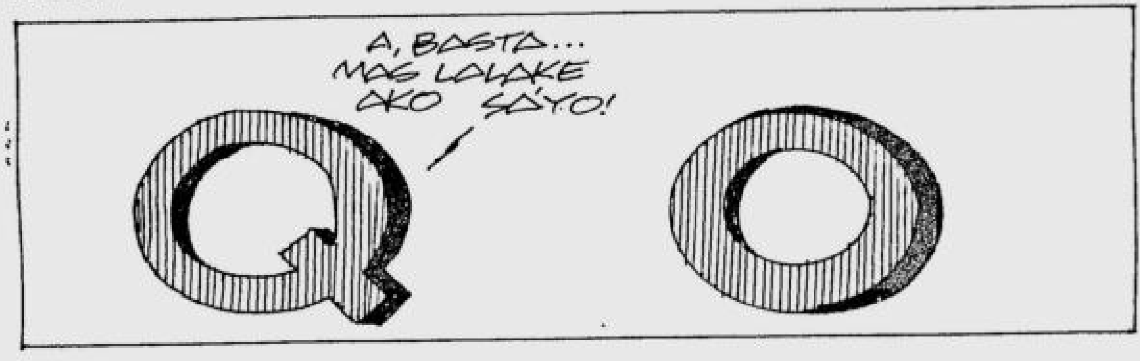
① Butasan ang karton gamit ng puncher. iLusot dito ang fastener.
② gupitin ang mga scratch paper para maging kasinLaki ng karton
③ Isuot ang mga papel sa fastener TA-DAH! isang SCRATCH PAD!

Mikrokosmos Comic Collection#1 Available na sa Powerbooks at Rare Bookstore! Published by Haribon Foundation

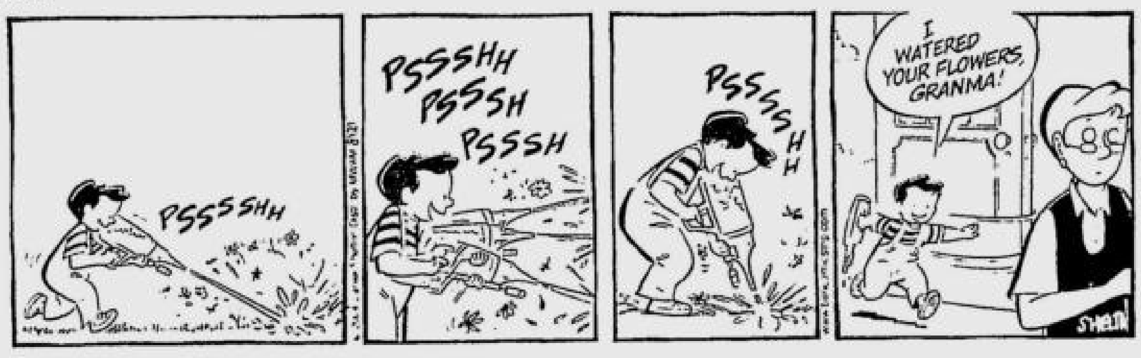
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

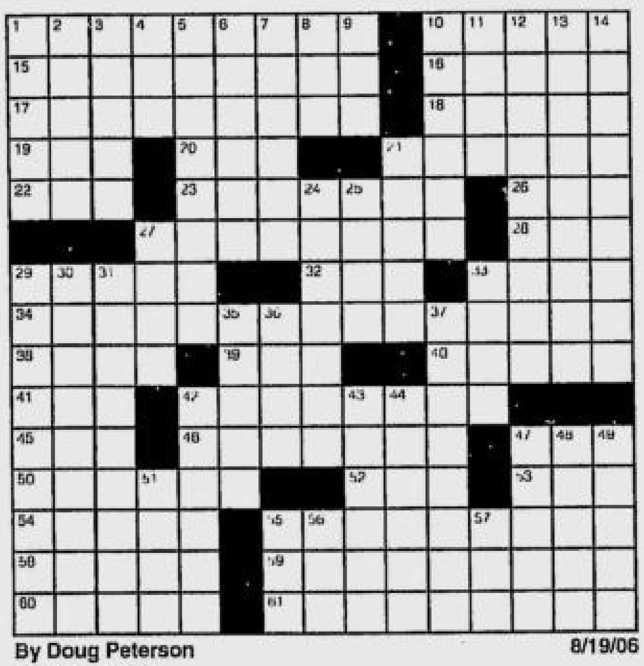

A, BASTA... MAG LALAKE AKO SA'YO!

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


PSSSSHH
PSSSHH PSSSH PSSSH
PSSSSHH
I WATERED YOUR FLOWERS, GRANMA!
SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Doug Peterson
Pasadena, CA

8/19/06

ACROSS

1 Big cheese
10 Benchwarmer
15 Versatile
16 Square things
17 Scottish broadswords
18 Bad-mouth
19 Related group
20 Four seasons in Spain
21 Do business with
22 So far
23 Chandler's private eye
26 Indian lentil dish
27 "Havana" star
28 Pulled off
29 Gather bit by bit
32 Maximum limit
33 All there
34 Almost weightless
38 Cupid alias
39 Permit to
40 Loses locks
41 Frisco hill
42 Singing group
45 Couple
46 Certain sound from a snare drum
47 RR intersection
50 NY tennis event
52 Objective
53 Just as I suspected!
54 Strong, cotton thread
55 Dutch capital
58 Composer Bruckner
59 Pet peeve
60 Takes five
61 Vigilance

DOWN

1 Slightly adhesive
2 Hardy's nickname
3 Factory
4 Hound-in-a-pound sound
5 Weapons of war
6 Tommy of "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes"
7 Dawn goddess
8 GPS heading
9 Billboard blurbs
10 Lustrous fabric
11 PC key
12 Author of "James and the Giant Peach"
13 Spotless
14 Eyes, beautywise
21 Make off with
24 Tracks down
25 Norwegian saint
27 Bolger and Haley's co-star
29 Of the endocrine system
30 Long ride?
31 Flattery and success, e.g.
33 Shot in the dark
35 Maximum poker bet
36 Strike one as
37 Point of contact
42 Putting areas
43 Pure and virtuous
44 Lollygag
47 Foster in pictures
48 Scorches
49 Weighty volumes
51 Novel underpinning
55 Arab cloak
56 Blanc of cartoons
57 Silver or Perlman

Friday's Puzzle Solved

S	T	R	U	T	■	W	E	E	K	■	P	E	R	M
A	W	A	S	H	■	H	A	L	L	■	A	L	O	E
G	E	T	S	A	T	I	S	F	A	C	T	I	O	N
A	E	S	■	T	O	N	Y	■	X	A	N	A	D	U
S	T	O	P	S	B	Y	■	R	O	N	A	■	■	■
■	■	■	R	O	O	■	R	I	N	D	■	R	B	I
W	R	E	A	K	O	N	E	S	■	Y	I	E	L	D
H	A	Z	Y	■	T	E	P	E	E	■	V	I	O	L
A	M	I	S	S	■	V	E	N	G	E	A	N	C	E
T	S	O	■	N	O	E	L	■	R	U	N	■	■	■
■	■	■	K	E	R	R	■	V	E	R	A	N	D	A
O	T	T	A	V	A	■	V	E	T	O	■	A	R	T
P	A	Y	B	A	C	K	I	N	S	P	A	D	E	S
E	C	R	U	■	L	I	E	U	■	O	N	I	C	E
C	O	A	L	■	E	T	R	E	■	P	A	R	K	A

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8/18/06

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are self-assured. However, you will never reveal everything about yourself; it's not your style. You hold back what you think others don't want to know. Because of this, people often misunderstand you. You're serious about your responsibilities. You want success. This next year could be one of the best years of your life!

Birthdate of: Matthew Perry, actor; Bill Clinton, 42nd US President; Lee Ann Womack, singer

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): For some reason, you feel richer today at home or within your family. Perhaps others give you things. There's a sense of bounty and wealth in your personal life.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You feel supportive, nurturing and caring for someone today. You want to help. You will do anything to make life easier for someone. Maybe this is true love?

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): This is an excellent day for business and finance. Trust your money-making ideas. It's also a very good day to shop. Buy items for yourself or loved ones.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You feel quite content with yourself today. In large measure, this is because you feel good toward others as well. There's an easy give-and-take in all your dealings, especially with partners and close friends.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): This might be a private, rather spiritual day for you. You certainly feel well-disposed or kindly toward others. Since kindness is the most important thing, this is excellent!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): A female friend will be highly entertaining today. In fact, you might be involved with several people, or a women's club, or female clients, students or coworkers.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): A boss, VIP or authority figure in your life can give you ideas about how to increase your earnings today. Listen to what is said. Other people are watching your reaction to this advice.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Make plans to get away somewhere! Book a trip or make reservations. You need to expand your world. You might also want to sign up for a course today to learn something new.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Gifts and goodies come to you today. In some manner, the wealth of others can benefit you. (Keep your pockets open.)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): This can be a very jovial day dealing with others. Good feelings abound. Discussions with partners and friends are pleasant and educational or informative in some way.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You can make great strides at work today. Whatever you do quite impresses important people. (This could be handy in the future.)

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Make vacation plans or discuss how you can grab a little getaway somewhere at this time. You have been working so hard—you need this!

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

by Dave Green

	4	8					5	
1				5				2
			2		8			9
		1				6		
	5			7			3	
		6				9		
5			7		6			
4				2				6
	3					1	4	

Difficulty Level ★★★★

8/19

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

3	7	2	5	9	4	8	6	1
1	5	8	6	3	7	2	4	9
6	9	4	1	8	2	5	7	3
2	6	5	7	1	9	3	8	4
9	3	7	4	6	8	1	5	2
8	4	1	2	5	3	6	9	7
5	2	9	8	4	1	7	3	6
7	8	3	9	2	6	4	1	5
4	1	6	3	7	5	9	2	8

Difficulty Level ★★★★

VOTE NOW! LAST DAY TODAY!

'I AM SUPER' PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARDS

________ is Super!

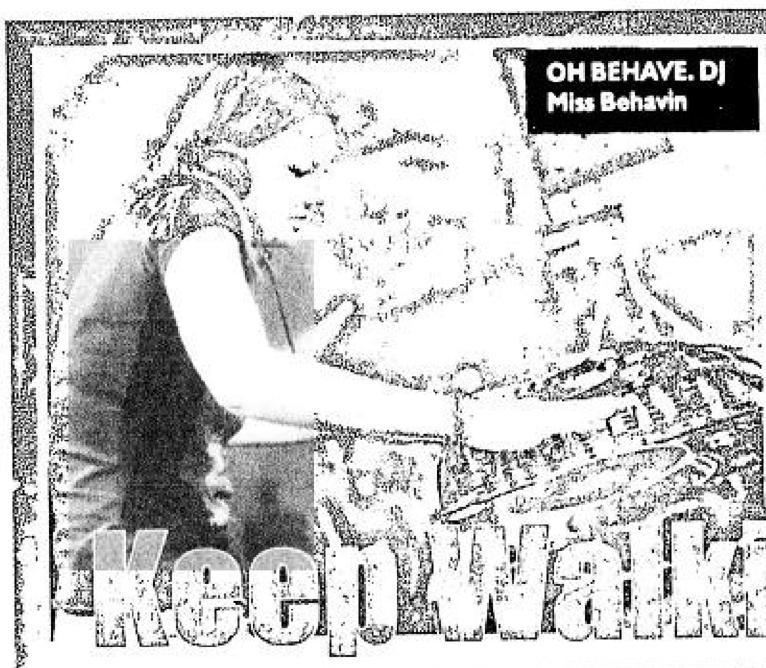
He/she rocks the world of ____ to the extreme!

Nominate any Super! Filipino from any field who's made an impact lately. Fill in the blanks above like so: "Manny Pacquiao is Super! because he rocks the world of boxing to the extreme!"

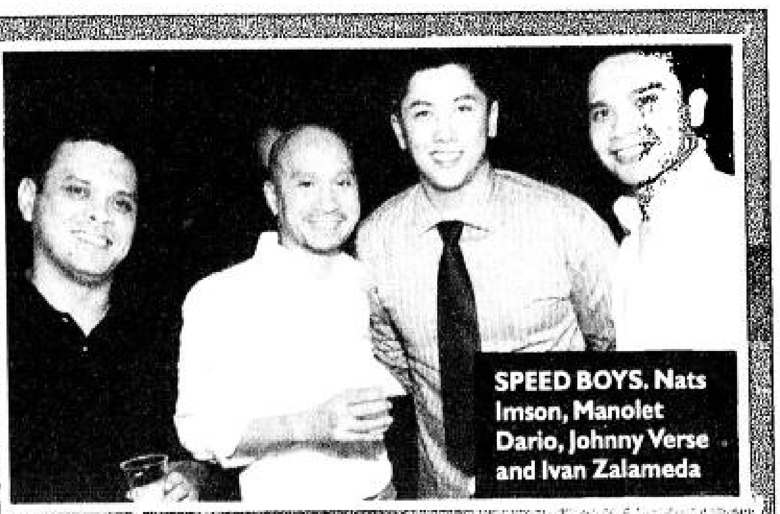
HOW TO VOTE:

Text us your nominees: inquirer sup name/age/city/nominee to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) or e-mail to iamsuper@gmail.com

Keep Walking, Johnnie



OH BEHAVE. DJ Miss Behavin



SPEED BOYS. Nats Imson, Manolet Dario, Johnny Verse and Ivan Zalameda

LOVE JACK. Erik Cua and Michelle Pamintuan

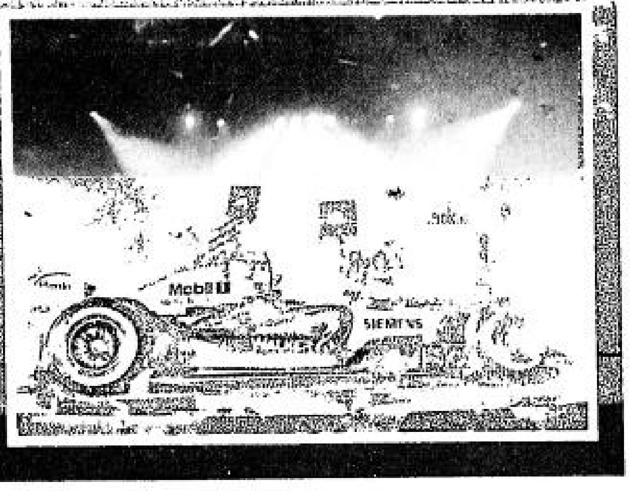
MAXIMUM PINK. Cyril Manadlang, Jane Kingsu and Rovilson Fernandez

JOHNNIE Walker's main man Jasper Evangelista with GP Reyes and Rachelle Tan

SPINMEISTERS. Jesse Suaco and Abba Maramba

Mercedes
Official Formula
SAFETY
SLK

MIKE Toledo with Ivan Yao



Mobil 1
SIEMENS

By David Milan

JOHNNIE Walker celebrated its participation in the exhilarating world of Formula One with a thrill seeking, high octane big event. Held at the PICC Forum, hundreds of Manila's partyphiles sped up to the halls of the venue to drink down, and dance in a party that only Johnnie Walker could throw. Racing video game booths, spectacular stage setup, Mercedes Benz displays and overflowing drinks had everyone revved up and getting high on speed. Walker then gave away hip gadgets and hot prizes, and one lucky winner even got an all-expense paid trip to the Shanghai Grand Prix this October.

WORKINGMOM Magazine and MERALCO present

"Ilaw ng Tahanan Series"

Working Mom Magazine's Enlightened Home Management Guide

Day 2: FOOD FOR LIFE: Working Mom's Guide to Food and Diet at Home
Date: August 26, 2006 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
Venue: 13th Floor Training Hall A and B ELJ Communications Center, ABS-CBN Compound, Quezon City

Day 3: Get Organized! De-clutter Your Home Now!
Date: September 30, 2006 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
Venue: 13th Floor Training Hall A and B ELJ Communications Center, ABS-CBN Compound, Quezon City

This seminar is for FREE but pre-registration is a must!

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THEY'RE BRINGING SEXY BACK. Brazil's brilliant dance-rock darlings CSS, short for "Cansei de Ser Sexy"

The Relaxatives

From page E1

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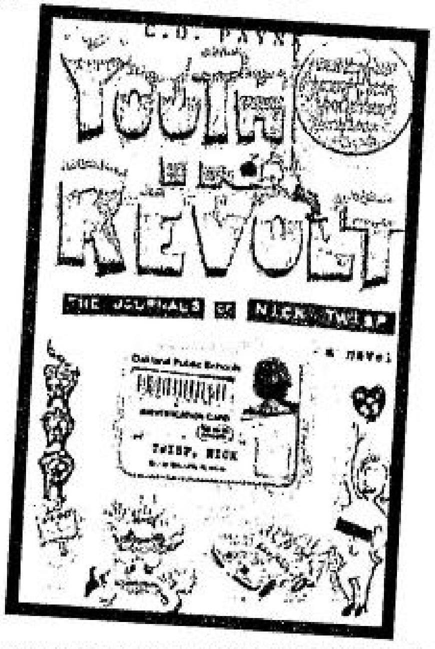
I mean, no one's stopping you from turning, say, George Eliot's relentlessly boring "Silas Marner" into an episode of "America's Next Top Model." Or making Sir Artthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes stories into a "C.S.I" plot involving Suri Cruise. See, in your head, anything is possible. In terms of creativity, that satirical thunder is what you're after.

Accomplish another short-term goal.

When the going gets tough, the tough get hot stone massages. Or something to that effect. When I go through a patch of inspiration starvation, I occasionally indulge in a little instant gratification, which I've discovered helps banish the blahs even for just a bit. Some may call it shallow. I call it a solution. So there.



THOUGHT BUBBLE BATH. C.D. Payne's "Youth In Revolt: The Journals of Nick Twisp" (P862, Fully Booked) is "Confederacy of Dunces" with a California setting

Commit murder on the dance floor.

All that means is dance like an idiot to songs that may or may not make complete sense. You can do spirit fingers, the air guitar, or drunken monkey ballet. You can even double-clap all you want. Do whatever it takes to loosen up your body, even if it means getting extradited from the dance floor while dying on your twitching ass. The mind should emerge baggageless after. As that Robbie Williams song goes, "Do the rudebox. Shake your rudebox." As to exactly what that means, your guess is as good as mine.

P.S. To crank things up a notch, why don't you mouth the lyrics of the songs while you're at it? My newest guilty pleasure/discovery is this Brazilian indie rock-dance band called CSS, short for "Cansei de Ser Sexy," which is Brazilian for "tired of being sexy." When not singing in heavily-accented English, they sass out lines in Portuguese, which I don't understand at all, which makes lyric-mouthing them potentially more stupid. Okay I shared too much. So should you.

Surrender logic at the door.

"Mistakes are joyful, truth infernal," goes Albert Camus. Or was it Mel Gibson who said that? Anyway, one technique to churn out something remotely imaginative is not to take yourself too seriously. Be irreverent. Indulge in deluxe delirium. Be contrarian. Embrace conflicting points of view, sometimes in the same paragraph. It's great to start at crazy places and then reach a smart, middle-ground kind of solution. Works like a charm. Or not.

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Then make a mood board out of them. A staple of design-dependent individuals, a mood board is simply a collection of images, colors, or small objects that give the feel you're aiming for. Creating one of these things doesn't take a long time either. For art projects, for example, you can collect a bunch of photos from fashion magazines, books, and even the web, as long as they have appealing textures and layouts. Cut them up or print stuff out and make them into a collage. If you live online, you can craft a virtual board instead. Just paste photos in Photoshop that show a color palette, explore texture and form, and basically act as inspiration for even more ideas.

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Hang out with artsy types.

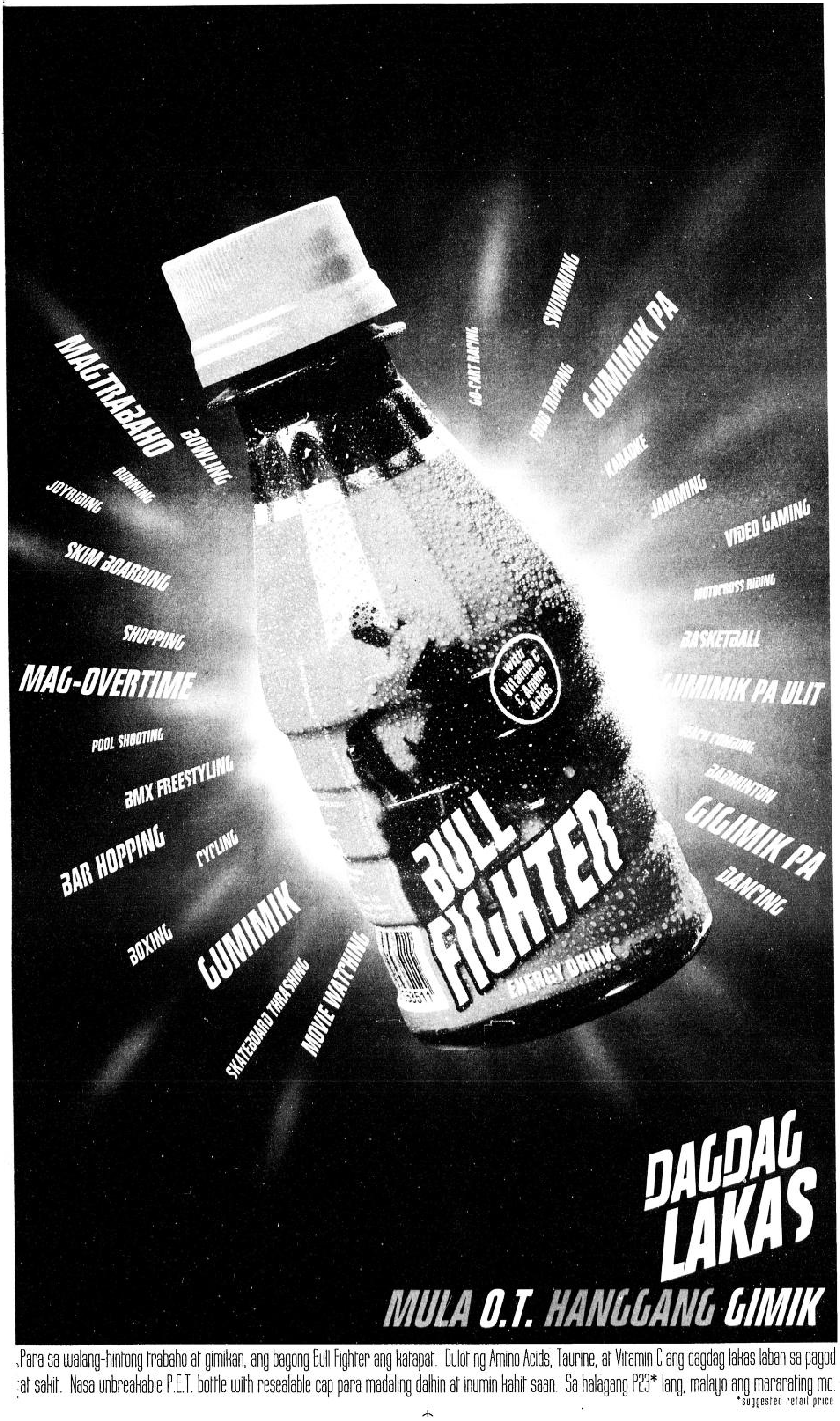
Or just the ones who have fashioned themselves into complex personas. You can learn a thing or two from them. I mean, look at Andy Warhol. You saw a soup can. He saw art. 'Nuff said.

And get rid of your tiresome friends.

It's not only things or circumstances that paralyze you with stress. More often, it's the people around you. If you have buds that seem to suck all your positive energy whenever they're around—like black holes—cut them out of your life once and for all. There's a spot reserved for them in hell beside the kitten murderers and the Scientologists.

Stay where you are.

When you're stuck in a creative rut, at times you need to move. But sometimes you just need to stay put. If there's anything I learned from my own experiences—and those lifeguards from "Baywatch: Hawaii"—it's this: To keep yourself from completely drowning, you have to stop thrashing around, keep still, and just let yourself float to the surface.



Para sa walang-hintong trabaho at gimikan, ang bagong Bull Fighter ang katapat. Dulot ng Amino Acids, Taurine, at Vitamin C ang dagdag lakas laban sa pagod at sakit. Nasa unbreakable P.E.T. bottle with resealable cap para madaling dalhin at inumin kahit saan. Sa halagang P23* lang, malayo ang mararating mo.

*suggested retail price

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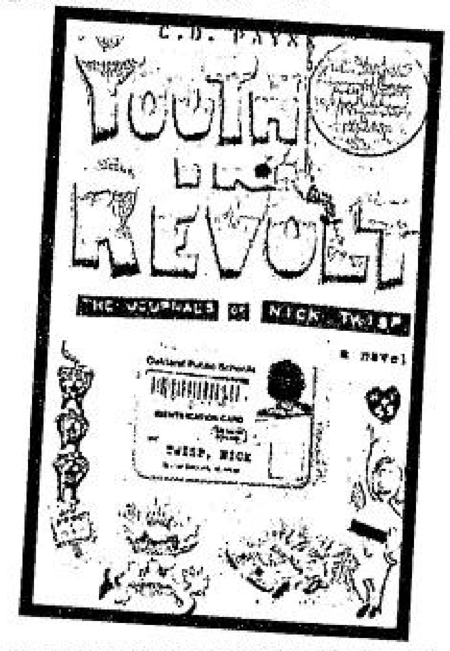

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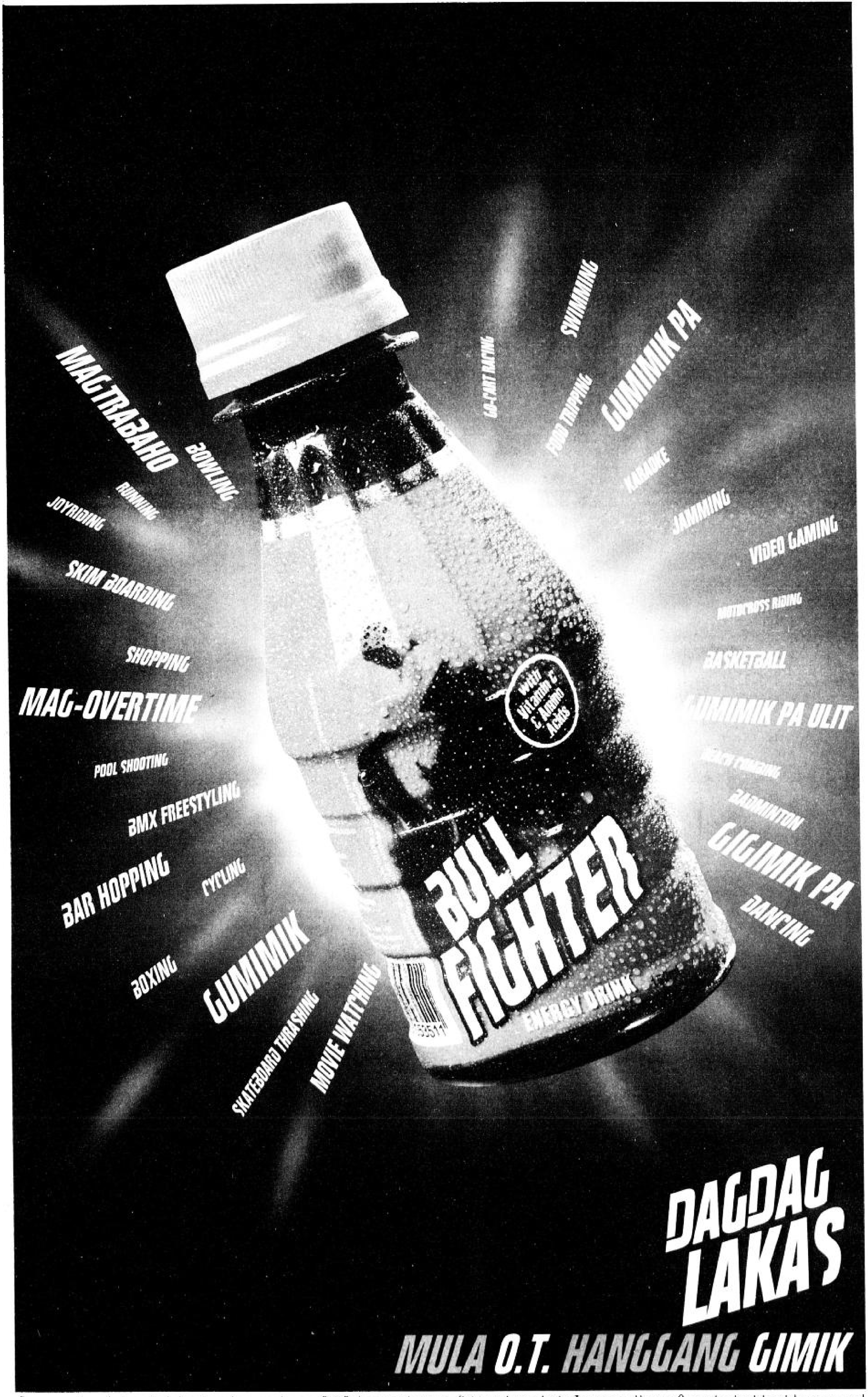

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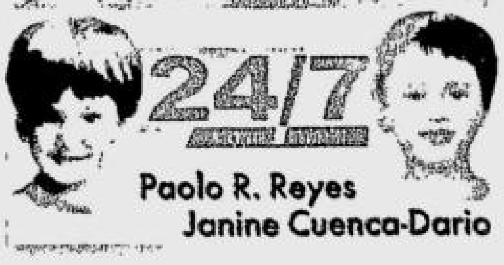
Scene stealers

THIRTY SEVEN ISSUES AND COUNTing! After a thumbs up from our friends at Lonely Planet, publishing our free monthly event guide, 24/7 Nocturnal Navigator, continues to be a fun (and gratifying) challenge.

After chronicling the nightlife scene for close to three years, we realized its important to give credit where it's been long due: To the many unsung people behind the city's best bars, restaurants, and events.

Last March, we let you be the judge in our second annual Nocturnal Awards. You picked the people, places, and public events that caught your eye in 2005—and the response was nothing short of tremendous. Now, the ballots have been cast and the results are finally in. The envelope, please!

BAR/CLUB: Embassy
RUNNERS-UP: Government · Citrus · Aruba · Nuvo
RESTAURANT: Queens
RUNNERS-UP: Embassy Cuisine · Good Earth · Italianni's · Aruba
DJ: Paolo Maralit
RUNNERS-UP: Manolet Dario · Roman Mojica · Marie Garcia · Owens Sun
ARTIST/LIVE ACT: Christian Bautista
RUNNERS-UP: Bamboo · Drip · Kuh Ledesma · Up Dharma Down
STAGE EVENT: URCC
RUNNERS-UP: Footloose: The Musical · World Pyro Olympics 2005 · Once On This Island · Lovapalooza 2005
MUSIC EVENT: Christian Bautista: Heartfelt
RUNNERS-UP: Sunrise @ Mati · Hed Kandi: Disco Heaven · Bargrooves feat. DJ Ben Sowton · Kuh Ledesma: Paano Kita Mapapasalamatan



Paolo R. Reyes
Janine Cuenca-Dario

Other Super! 24/7 events:

Aug. 19, Saturday

Godskitchen feat. DJ Paul Thomas & Johnboy Lee at the World Trade Center; Sugarfree, Happy Meals & Cambio at Saguijo; DJs Paolo Maralit & Cao Ocampo at Jill's; Cueshe at Mall of Asia; 2nd Pinoy Digital Filmfest at Pelikula@TitusBrandsma; Sitti at Robinsons Pioneer; Urban Groove: R&B Night at Citrus; DJ Marie Garcia at Mati; DJ Buddha at Absinth; Soundsgood at Embassy Cuisine; DJ Bam del Valle at Government; DJ Scratchmark & Shorty at Prince of Jaipur

Aug. 20, Sunday

Sitti: Album Tour at Rockwell; Champagne Lunch at Paseo Uno (Mandarin Oriental); Jay Ticar exhibit at UP Vargas Museum; Champagne Brunch at Spiral (Hotel Phil. Plaza)

Aug. 21, Monday

CanU DIGGIT? at Absinth; I Don't Like Mondays! w/ DJ Ro at Gweilos Makati; Silk & Steel at Merk's; Eastwind Jazz Trio at Captain's Bar; Pianist Teresa Avila at Tivoli; Follies de Mwah at Club Mwah

Aug. 22, Tuesday

Kami nAPO Muna w/ Kitchie Nadal, Orange & Lemons, Parokya ni Edgar, Barbie Almabis & Drip at Centerstage SM Megamall; German Silent Film Festival (music by Bo Razon) at Greenbelt 1 Cinema 1; DJ Erwin Edralin at Absinth; Kickback Tuesdays at Manila DJ Club; Two Rooms at Citrus; Guarana at Café Havana Greenbelt; Spirit of '67 at Captain's Bar

Aug. 23, Wednesday

Orange & Lemons at 70s Bistro; Urbandub, Dicta License, Angulo, The Dorques, Hilera & The Ambassadors at Saguijo; Sitti at Dish; DJ Boyet Almazan at Strumm's; Steve Mills at Absinth; Discotech at Mezze; DJs Karl Ty & Cao Ocampo at Embassy Cuisine; DJs Mars Miranda & Johnyverse at Embassy Club; Stereo Therapy at Embassy VIP Room; Willy Wanka's Music Factory at Gweilos Makati; GP Reyes at Temple

Aug. 24, Thursday

Sitti: Bossa Nights at Eastwood City Walk 2; Cooky Chua at 70s Bistro; Gary V @ 23 at Music Museum; Sweet Suite Soul at Sake Lab; GottaHaveHouse! at Capone's ; Fluxxe at Absinth; Supahstar DJ Thursdaze at Bed; DJ Badboy Jeff at Temple

Aug. 25, Friday

Wolfmann+ Album Launch at Saguijo; Gary V @ 23 at Music Museum; Liquified Orange at Shang Streetscape; Color It Red at Unplugged Malate; Decadance w/ Boyet Almazan at Jill's

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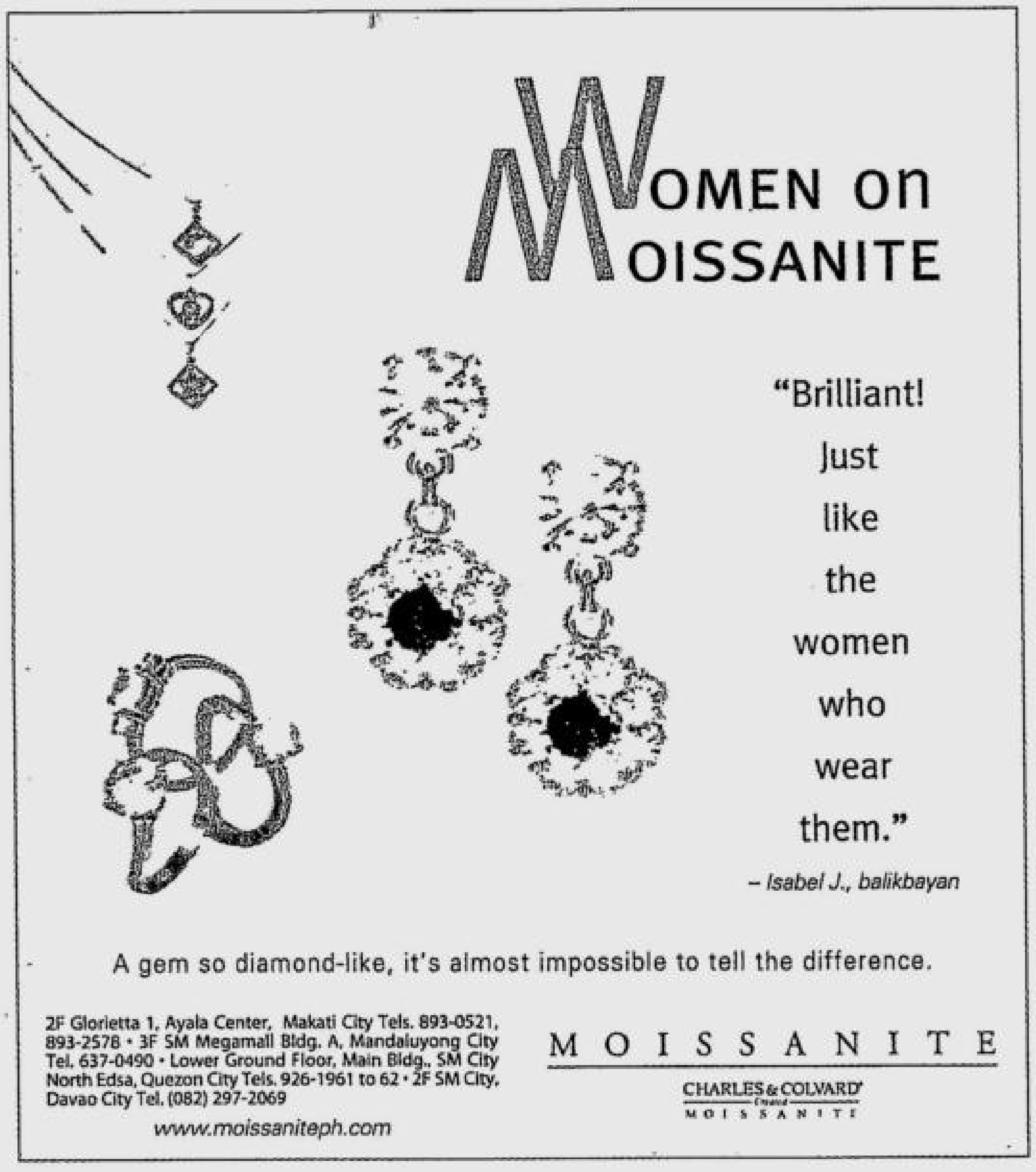
WOMEN ON MOISSANITE

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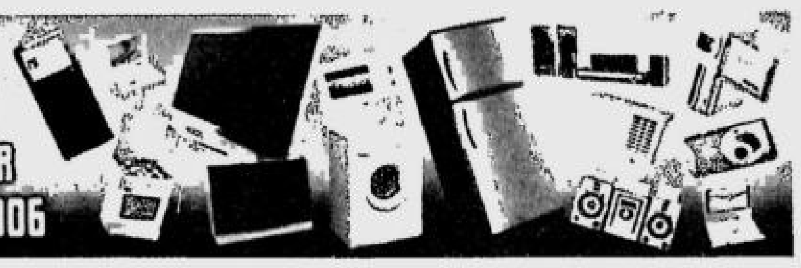


Automatic CENTRE

Appliance Storm showcases best brands in Greenhills

While rains keep most people at home, this can be a reason to do many things with the family: read a book together, play board games, watch TV, or even bond while doing household chores.

Automatic Centre, the leading appliance store, knows exactly what you need during this rainy season and how to have a real good time.

Appliance Storm showcases the best appliances and cool gadgets you'll need. The third in a series of exhibit, Appliance Storm now goes to Greenhills Shopping Center which coincides with the mall's thematic monthly exhibit.

Geoffrey Lim, general manager of Automatic Centre, said "The market in Greenhills is very vibrant that's why we make it a point to hold an exhibit there every year." This is Automatic Centre's fourth year as anchor at the Greenhills Shopping Centre's annual appliance fair.

Lim also noted that there is a mix of related key products essential for the home during the rainy season.

"People can check out appliances from the brown to white lines," he said. "And there are quite a number of cool audio-video gadgets too."

People don't usually go out as much which makes them stay at home more. This gives them the opportunity to catch up on their missed DVD movies and favorite television shows.

For those who want maximum viewing experience, Appliance Storm displays the latest in plasma and other flat screen TVs. Couple it with the latest in audio equipment. Sing your heart out with Magic Sing loaded with hundreds, or even thousands of songs.

This can also be the best for family bonding. Household chores may not really be a favorite for most kids but parents can make it fun though. Make cooking fun with the latest gas range or oven. Make the kids help out in cooking which makes it a perfect time to tell stories and catch up on their life in school.

Laundry is one of the main concerns when rain comes. Although here in the Philippines, tube dryers or washing machines are more popular, spin dryers are slowly becoming more visible in most homes.

Lim assures that this is the best time to buy appliances where promos and prices offer a lot of value to consumers.

For this exhibit Automatic Centre tied up with Citibank.

"We want to be able to offer everything the customer needs at the most affordable price," Lim said.

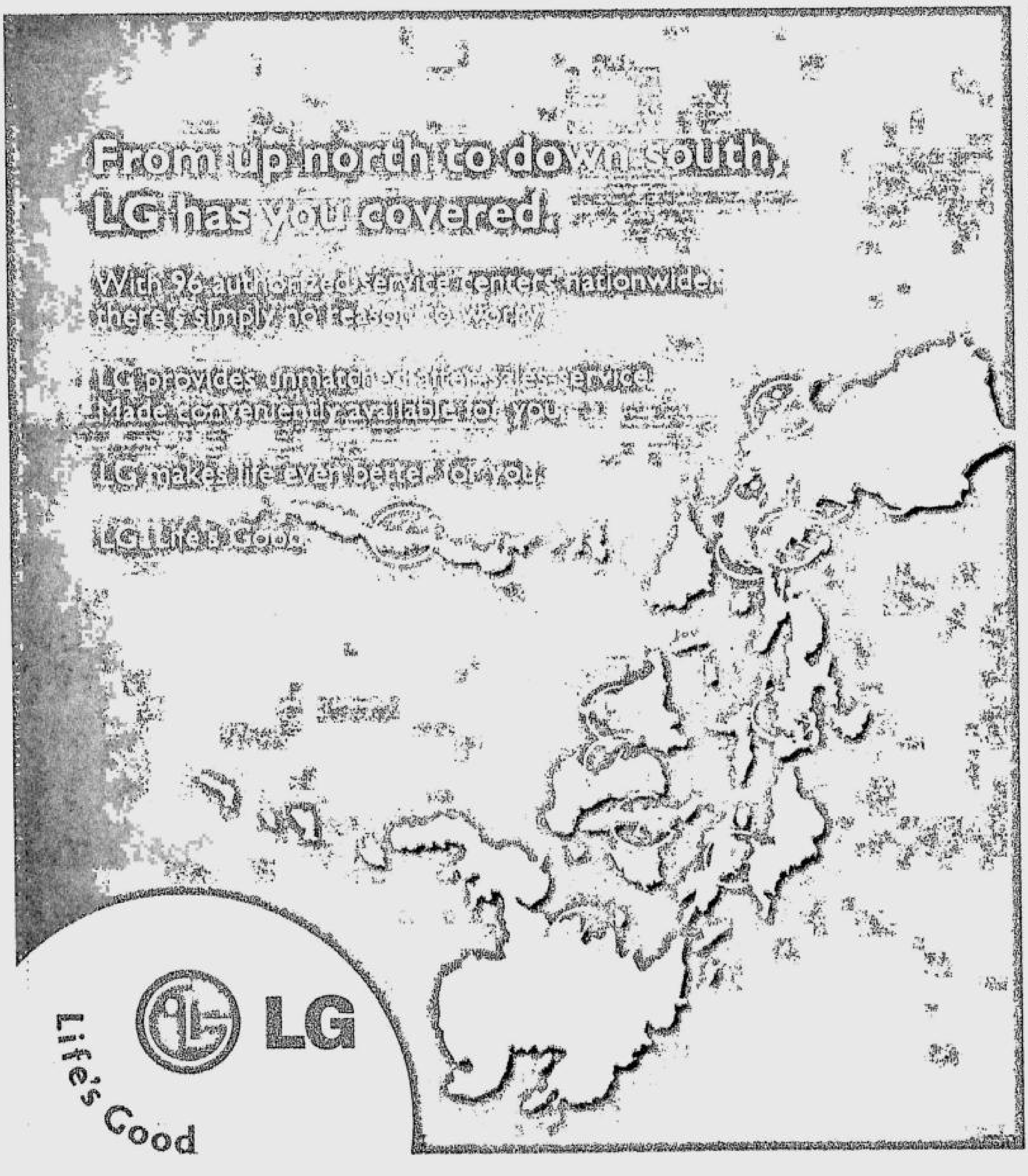
All items are available at 0-percent interest using any Citibank credit card from three up to 24 months.

A number of brands of flat TVs are available in installment at 24-month term.

Do check out other freebies from some participating suppliers. Others give TV stand or a camera bag for a particular purchase.

"There is always a good deal and more value with the freebies that come along with every purchase," said Lim.

Automatic Centre's Appliance Storm at the Greenhills Shopping Center is until Sept. 6.



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Sharp Flat TV: A feast for the eyes and ears!

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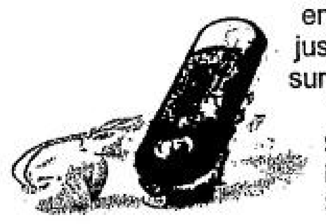
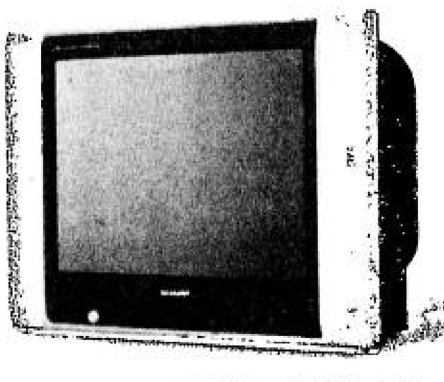
And now, with the Sights and Sounds promo, Sharp is throwing in something for the ears, too! Each purchase of a Sharp 25, 29 or 34 inch Flat TV automatically comes with a free MP3 player. Those who opt for a 21 inch flat TVs will also be in for a treat as the MP3 player comes free with an additional P298. That's certainly something that will make Sharp Flat TV buyers extra pleased with their purchase.

The Sights and Sounds promo is available at Sharp dealers nationwide and runs from July 1 to Sept. 30.



SIGHTS and Sounds MP3 players, the "It" thing these days, can be yours free with each purchase of a Sharp 25, 29 or 34 inch Flat TV! Buyers of 21 inch Sharp Flat TVs may also get them by simply adding P298 to their purchase. The Sights and Sounds promo is available at Sharp dealers nationwide and runs from July 1 to Sept. 30.



THE Sharp 29V-FR300S (BK) Flat TV

KEEP SPINNING!

ILLUSTRATION BY ALIZA BUTIONG

Cost and energy efficient laundry cleaner

HERE IN THE PHILIPPINES, TUBE washing machines and tumble dryers are the most popular. During the wet season when drying clothes seem like an endless problem because of that not-so-pleasant odor if not dried enough.

Lately, one item that has been increasingly becoming popular is the spin dryer. Most households nowadays are finding the spin dryers more helpful especially during the damp weather.

What makes spin dryers more popular these days?

When it's raining hard there is no way you can dry up clothes outside the home. The still wet clothes will be hanged inside the house sometime causing unpleasant odor. A spin dryer not only removes soap, detergents, and perfumes but it also completely dries up items, even the thick or hard-to-dry ones, like jeans, blankets, and bath towels.

A spin dryer dries clothes faster or at least half of the usual drying time, which cuts use of electricity in the process. It removes at least one quart of water from clothing using a few seconds worth of electricity. In this way, it also extends the "life" of both the clothes dryer and the clothes or there is less wear and tear.

This type of dryer removes a considerable amount of soap, detergents, perfumes and even chemicals. These are the chemicals that have been previously drying into the clothing, and which risk skin absorption leading to irritation.

An excellent test is to take three of your older bath towels, place them in your washing machine. Do not use any soap. Turn on the washing machine for 5 minutes, and see the soap suds that have accumulated in your towels. It is also in your clothing.

Sometimes, people worry so much about the amount of lint in the filter. If there is less lint in the clothes dryer filter it means less destruction of the clothing.

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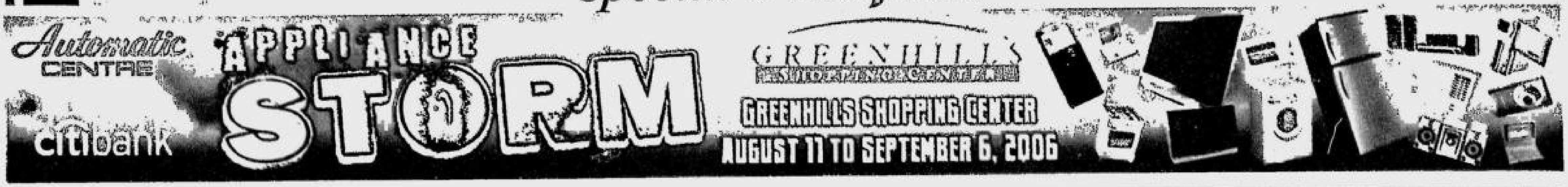
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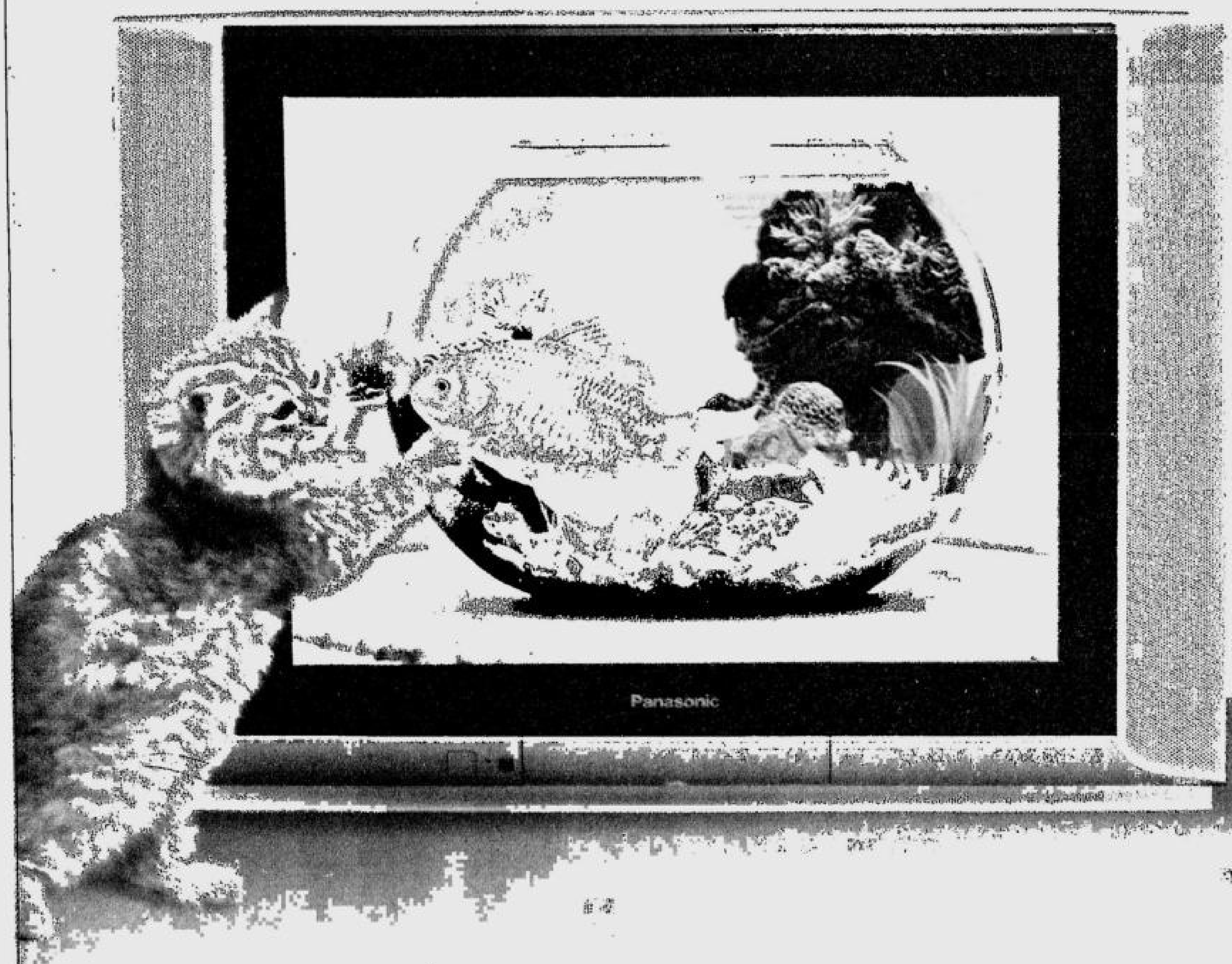

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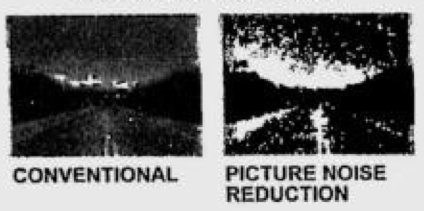

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Reality TV

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You are lounging by the beach. You walk towards the shoreline, amazed at all the untouched beauty of this paradise. You look out at the vast aqua sea, brilliantly gleaming in its tranquility. The waves crash towards the sand rhythmically, and from afar, you hear the chirping of birds, a melodic harmony from nature. Suddenly, you hear a deep, rumbling sound. You look around in panic. The rumbling grows louder, until it reaches a crescendo. Footsteps, hundreds of thunderous footsteps. You turn towards the grove of trees in the middle of the island, and as if from nowhere, out comes a massive group of angry tribesmen. And they are running towards you, their spears pointed in your direction. Their tribal screams pierce the air, and you look frantically for a place to hide. No such luck.

Then the scene fades, replaced by a commercial spot, and you are transported back to your living room couch.

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Enjoy specialized listening, with the 5-Band Equalizer. It gives you a choice of four preset sound settings (Music/News/Cinema/Sports) to best match the kind of programme you are watching. And with the Personal mode, you can also "fine tune" and memorize tone settings to suit your personal tastes.

Together, they produce sounds so crisp and clear, it's as if you were hearing it live.

With a Panasonic FX TV, you can truly experience high performance with great style. More than that, it is designed to be environment-friendly, with materials that aim to minimize harm to human health and the environment.

With all these features, entertainment has become more than just pleasurable, it has become an exciting experience for those who seek reality in their TV-watching.

Now picture yourself in an Automatic outlet, as you treat yourself to a Panasonic FX TV for your reality TV fix. Wasn't that thrilling? Get yourself one now, because when it comes to real-life entertainment, the Panasonic FX TV is as real as it gets.

E-mail: pr_saturday_special@inquirer.com.ph
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SATURDAY *Special*

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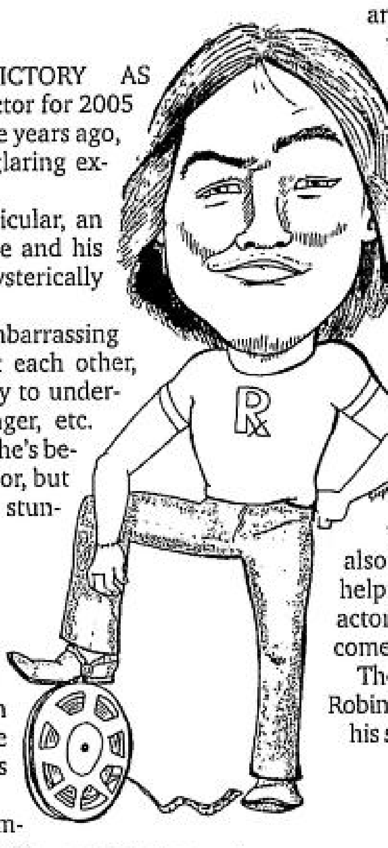
Robin Padilla goes from over-the-top actor to Urian awardee

By Nestor U. Torre



PADILLA. Stunning recovery.

ROBIN PADILLA'S VICTORY AS the Urian Awards' best actor for 2005 is a stunner, because some years ago, his performances were glaring examples of how *not* to act.

We remember, in particular, an action movie in which he and his leading lady turned in hysterically over-the-top portrayals.

In one particularly embarrassing scene, they screamed at each other, pointing fingers endlessly to underscore their hurt and anger, etc. But, look at Robin now—he's become, not just a good actor, but the Urian's best. That's a stunning recovery!

Asset

How did Robin pull it off? He should thank his lucky stars for Mark Meily, who directed him in "La Visa Loca," in a role eminently suited to his unique thespic persona.

Meily is a savvy filmmaker, because he knows how to turn Robin's liability—his rough, overly energetic thespic persona—into an asset for his movie.

As the trying-hard and dreaming-big protagonist of "La Visa Loca," Robin represents all the desperate young men out there who want to claw their way out of their no-exit lives by living the Filipino's vaunted American Dream.

When things don't go his way, his desperation mounts, and he grabs at any and all straws within reach. In so doing, Padilla flails and wails in his signature way—but, in a more productive way this time, because it's perfectly suited to his character's mounting frustration and failed dreams.

To be sure, Meily does more than just refocus Robin's angst—he also mines his actor's heart and soul for a warm, vulnerable core that the actor has heretofore not yet revealed, or perhaps didn't even know he had.

Spot-on portrayal

So, Robin's Urian victory is well-deserved, but Meily should also give himself a pat on the back for helping the former Bad Boy and O-A actor of Philippine movies finally come into his own as an A-1 thespian.

The heavy question now is, what's Robin going to do for an encore? Was his spot-on portrayal in "La Visa Loca" a fluke, or is it a sign of even better performances to come?

Well, it depends on who directs him next, and how well his follow-up role is scripted.

Hysterical

Left to his own devices and impulses, Robin could be tempted to fall back on his hysterical and frenetic acting shticks of the past.

So, the new best actor winner should choose his next movie projects well, and make sure that an outstanding writer-director is onboard, to once more focus his usually excessive energy and again put it to more productive and insightful use.

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'Kami nAPO Muna'

Contemporary sound in top bands' tribute to Apo

JAVIER, PAREDES, GARROVILLO. Musical legacy.

By Rito P. Asilo

AFTER CHURNING OUT ONE hit single after another for more than three decades, the Apo Hiking Society—made up of Jim Paredes, Danny Javier and Boboy Garrovillo, who helped shape the unique sound of Original Pilipino Music in the '70s—finally gets a well-deserved hurrah from today's top bands in the substantial 18-track album, "Kami nAPO Muna: A Tribute to the Apo Hiking Society."

Movement

The term "OPM," as the trio shares in the CD's liner notes, was coined by Javier to put a "branding" to the kind of music young songwriters of that era were doing. That particular musical movement was not of the *kundiman* mold, was hip and daring, and addressed everyday concerns of Filipinos through songs that spoke directly to them.

Some 30 years later, and despite the music industry's current woes, *Pinoy* music continues to thrive in the hands of dynamic bands whose songs mirror our lives in a musical nutshell.

Nuanced mix

The collection, a nuanced mix of nostalgia and vibrant, youthful sound, captures the Apo's rich, exquisite lyrics and ear-friendly melodies within the context of contemporary local pop music, and re-introduces the trio's songs to the Internet generation.

Happily, the significance and vitality of their tunes have not been diminished through the years. (Although we can't help but wish the producers had not forgotten to include "Tuloy ang Ikot ng Mundo." And, by the way, why isn't Ely Buendia in the lineup?)

Sweeping sentimentality

While the trio's ballads lose some of their melodic polish and sweeping sentimentality, they're decidedly edgier and more in-your-face in their new incarnations.

The fact that these songs still work today is testament to their music's timelessness and originality: Kamikazee's infectious "Doo Bidoo," for instance, featuring Jay Contreras' intensely rousing whine, sounds like a Green Day/ White Snake rock hybrid with hints of ska.

The lyrical "Kumot at Unan"

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CLICK PG13 1:20,3:30,5:40, 7:50,10:00	MORTUARY R13 1:25,3:35,5:45, 7:55,10:05	MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND R13 1:35,3:45,5:55, |8:05,10:15

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CINEMA 5 SUPER EX-GIRLFFRIEND 10:30, 12:50, 3:10 5:30, 7:50, 10:10 R-13

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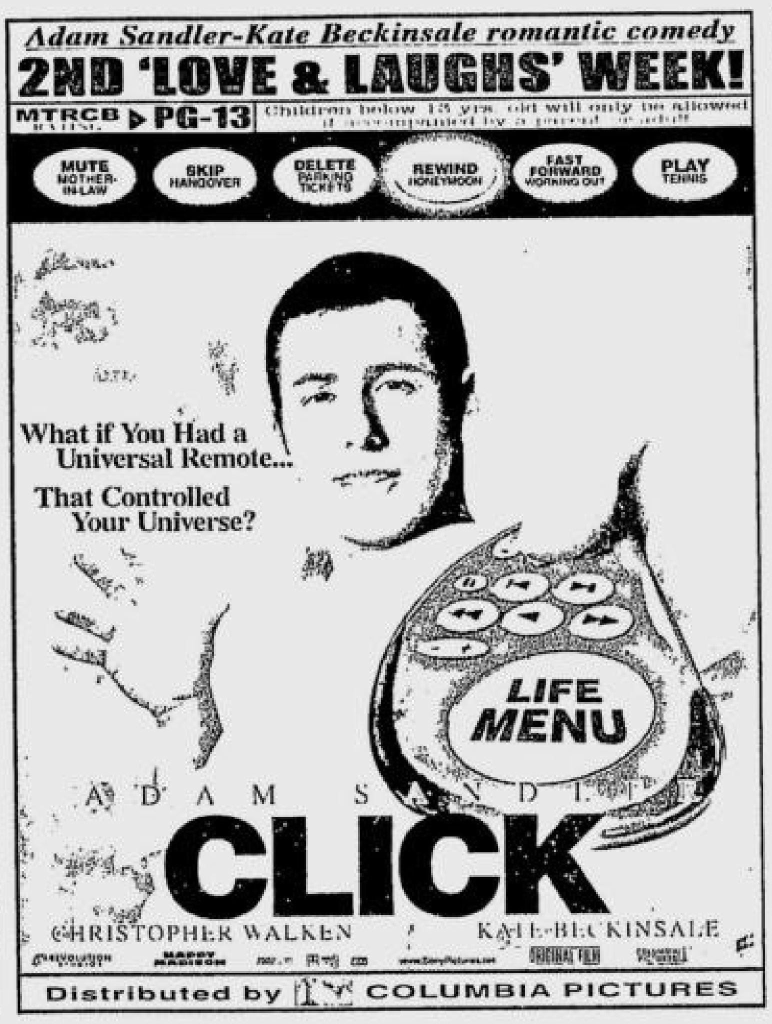

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4	BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2	12:45, 3:20, 5:55, 8:30, 11:00	R-13

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Cinema	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
G1 GLORIETTA 1	THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2	MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND	MORTUARY	OH MY GHOST!			
G4 GLORIETTA 4	CLICK	FREEDOMLAND	THX AMERICAN DREAMZ 1:30, 3:45, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	KUBRADOR	SUKOB	MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND	THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
GB1 GREENBELT 1	CLICK	MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND					
GB3 GREENBELT 3	THX AMERICAN DREAMZ 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:15, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	THX MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS	FREEDOMLAND 2:10, 4:30, 6:50, 9:10, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	MIAMI VICE 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	CLICK 2:20, 4:30, 6:40, 8:20, 11:00 GUARANTEED SEATS		
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	THX MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND	THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2	CLICK	OH MY GHOST!	STORMBREAKER		
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND	MIAMI VICE	WOLFCREEK	OH MY GHOST!			
M2 MARKET! MARKET!	OH MY GHOST!	THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2	KUBRADOR	MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND	MIAMI VICE		

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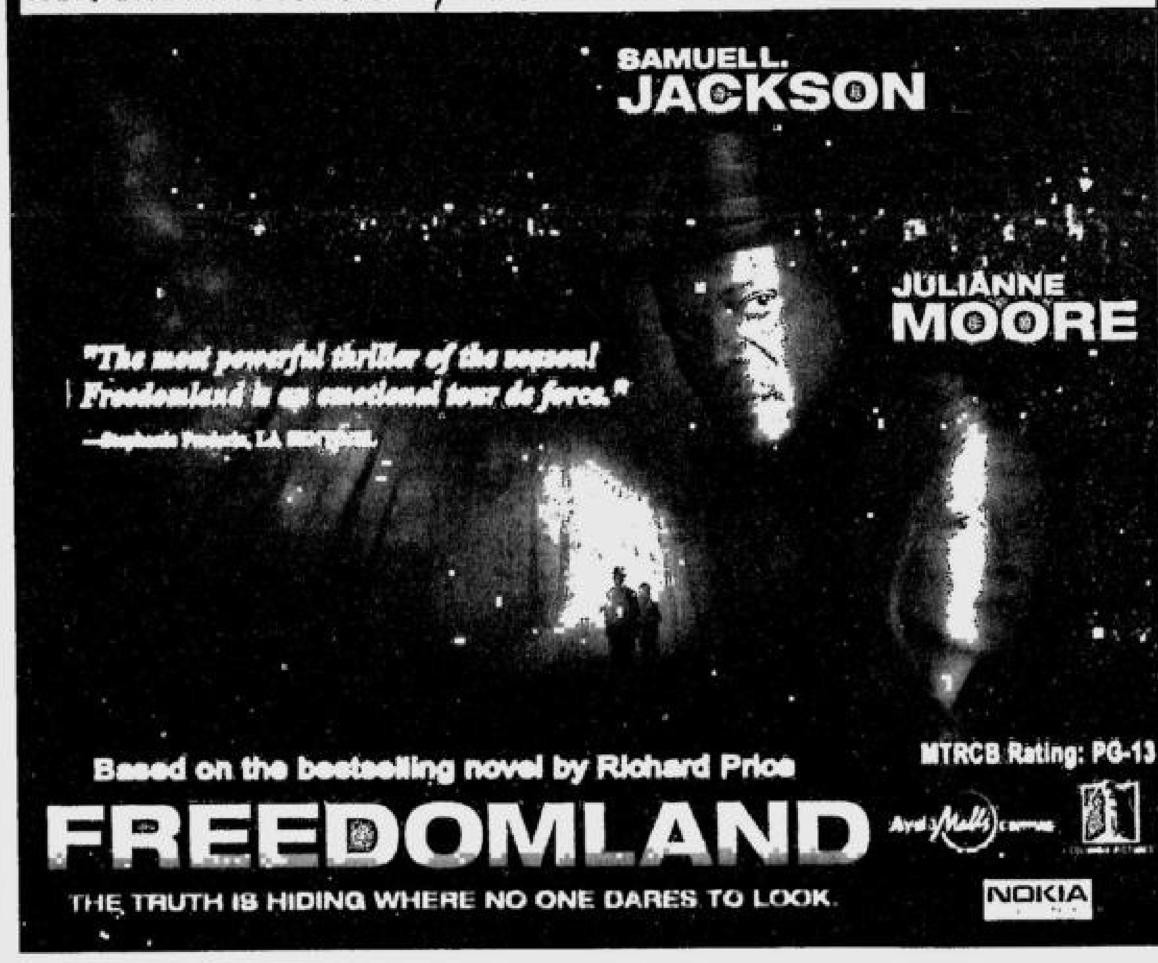

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Nobody does it better than Stevie Wonder

By Noelani Torre

AFTER THE RELEASE OF STEVIE WONDER'S unsatisfactory "Conversation Peace" in 1995, his more exacting critics decreed that he ought to have quit while he was still ahead.

With no new album in the years that followed, it looked as though the man Rolling Stone dubbed "one of American popular music's most gifted and innovative performers" had taken their advice to heart.

Idiosyncratic

It doesn't do to predict the actions of a famously idiosyncratic artist, however. He's always been known for taking his time between records—aside from which, Stevie did not become a "Wonder" by listening much to opinions of mere mortals.

Indeed, the 56-year-old living legend showed fans and critics alike that there's more artistic life in him when he released "A Time to Love" a decade after his last album.

The songs in this 15-track disc may not sound as fresh and impressively imaginative as his very best work (his pitch-perfect series of records back in the '70s that left their indelible print on R&B). But even the very least of them is infused with a level of artistry that your younger, more current-sounding performers couldn't hope to equal. Of course, it's not really fair to compare anybody to Stevie, who belongs to a category all his own.

Listening to "A Time to Love" is akin to having a long, cool drink of water after having to make do with endless plastic cups of warm cola.

Prodigy

The album's first three songs illustrate many facets of Wonder's music that we've all heard in the course of his nearly half-a-century-long career (a prodigy, he started recording when he was only 11 years old).

Opening number "If Your Love Cannot Be Moved," featuring gospel singer Kim Burrell and rapper Doug E. Fresh, is big-hearted and funky.

Promoting activism—"You can't shout out peace and vanish in the crowd"—it reminds us of Stevie's long-held and rather naïve '60s sentiments. It's nothing if not heartfelt, however. Wonder may venture too close for comfort into schmaltz territory, but he is always saved by his just being himself.

The following track, "Sweetest Somebody I Know," reintroduces the Stevie most of us know and love—the crooner with the deft songwriting touch and a good ear for melody. "Moon Blue" is even better. This graceful, elegiac offering has the singer tossing off brilliant vocals with seeming carelessness (top that, Mariah).

Guest stars

Like most albums by other similarly established artists, "A Time to Love" also comes complete with its own roster of guest stars. Aside from the abovementioned, also making an appearance are Stevie's own daughter, Aisha Morris; classical flutist, Hubert Laws; Bonnie Raitt; Prince; En Vogue; India.Arie; Sir Paul McCartney; Mike Phillips, and Kirk Franklin.

The roles they play are strictly supporting ones, though. As usual, Stevie does most of the work himself (from the vocals to the harmonicas and bongos), and indeed, nobody does it better!

WONDER. Brilliant vocals.

Contemporary sound...

From page G2

and "When I Met You," on the other hand, benefit from the upbeat covers of Boldstar's irreverently entertaining quartet (Marie Jamora, Echo Singson, Justin Sunico and Jazz Nicolas) and Barbie Almalbis, respectively—particularly from the former's inspired voice harmony and the latter's dance beats (that explode in a cathartic finale).

Louie Ocampo and Rowena Arietta's he-said/she-said love song classic, "Ewan," Apo's popular collaboration with Sharon Cuneta, gets a fresh reworking from Imago's Aia de Leon.

Surprisingly, the album circumvents a tendency for musical stupor from love-schmaltz overload because of the different bands' distinctive musical styles and sound quality: Sound's "'Di Na Natuto" uses a bluesy/jazzy groove that overhauls the sudsy Gary V anthem. Top Suzara's "Anna" has a slower tempo and is rock-tinged. Drip's "Kabilugan ng Buwan," with its funky sound and sexy, eclectic riffs, reeks of mystery.

The '70s *barkada* anthem, "Blue Jeans," by Rocksteddy, brims with snarly tension, even a hint of rancor. For her part, Kitchie Nadal delivers a deeper, more seminal interpretation of "Pag-ibig" (with a notable instrumental

CONTEMPORARY/ G4

Living their dreams with Sara Lee Direct Selling

The harsh realities of life can make a person reexamine one's options. This holds true for Cora Orbeta, a public school teacher; Perla Gremio, a college professor; and Nelia Lorenzo, a homemaker. The desire to give their families better lives prompted them to get out of their comfort zones and look for better options. Their search led them to Sara Lee Direct Selling. Today, they are enjoying lucrative careers as dealers. Besides the financial freedom, they now enjoy life's luxuries. On top of these is being named among this year's top Independent Business Managers (IBMs).

Success is something Cora of Sara Lee Direct Selling-Davao never imagined she would achieve, not even when she was a franchise dealer for another direct selling company. "When I joined Sara Lee in 1993, I knew I would finally enjoy the financial stability I've always wanted. The products are saleable and the income opportunities are really generous." Now, Cora and her family can travel to places she used to see only in pictures, like Switzerland, Amsterdam, and Sydney.

Determined to make it to the top, Perla would go from house to house to recruit more dealers. Only two months after she joined Sara Lee Direct Selling in 1995, she became an IBM and since then, success kept coming. "I now own seven Sara Lee Direct Selling centers all over Negros and have a house in an exclusive subdivision. With the Vehicle Incentive Program, my dream cars have also become a reality. Now, I'm planning to buy a Ford Everest!"

Nelia's success started when she began selling Hanes cotton underwear. She then moved to other Sara Lee Direct Selling products. Now, she's earning more than she could ever imagine, and is enjoying the perks of being a Sara Lee dealer. "I now have two cars, and can travel anywhere abroad. Thanks to Sara Lee Direct Selling, my family and I enjoy a good and comfortable life!"

As Cora, Perla and Nelia's stories show, all it takes is a single step to change the course of your life. For these brave women, having a career with Sara Lee Direct Selling was the step that alowed them to live the life they've always dreamed of.

Sara Lee Direct Selling Philippines, Inc. is the authorized distributor of prestigious brands that include Playtex, Hanes, Champion, Wonderbra, Just My Size, Girls' Attitudes, Colour Collection, Beauty Touch, Ivana, Georgie On Ice, VS. Versus, Nutrimetics and Zwitsal. Sara Lee Direct Selling Philippines, Inc. is also known as Fuller Cosmetics in Latin America and Nutrimetics in many parts of the world. If you have questions, need additional information or wish to become a dealer, call 859-3000, or send an email to customer relation@saraleedirectselling.ph. You can also send inquiries through fax number 867-2279. You may also get in touch through text at 0921-9643367 or 0915-9823471

From Top: Cora Orbeta, Perla Gremio and Nelia Lorenzo are now living their dreams, thanks to Sara Lee Direct Selling.

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1 CLICK • THX
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
6 AMERICAN DREAMZ
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
11:00 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50
7 MORTUARY
1.00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00
3 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
12:50 3:05 5:20 7:35 9:50
8 STORMBREAKER
1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00
4 KUBRADOR
12:50 3:10 5:30 7:50 10:00
9 MIAMI VICE
1:20 4:10 7:00 9:50
5 OH MY GHOST!
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
10 SUKOB
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
2 AMERICAN DREAMZ 10:10 12:30 2:50
KUBRADOR 5:10 7:30 10:00
5 SUKOB
10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
3 MORTUARY
10:20 12:35 2:50 5:05 7:25 9:50
6 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
12:10 2:10 4:10 6:10 8:05 10:00
4 CLICK
10:20 12:15 2:10 4:05 6:00 8:00 10:00
7 OH MY GHOST!
10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2
12:30 3:20 6:10 9:00
5 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
11:10 1:40 4:10 6:40 9:10
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
11:50 2:10 4:30 6.50 9:10
6 MORTUARY
12:50 2.50 4.50 6:50 9:00
3 STORMBREAKER
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10
7 CLICK
12:25 2:35 4:45 6:55 9:00
4 SUKOB
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10
8 OH MY GHOST!
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 MORTUARY
3 OH MY GHOST!
4 SUKOB

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575
1 SUKOB
2 CLICK
3 RESERVE
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PIONEER 687-5378
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3 THE ANT BULLY
4 SUKOB

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1 THE ANT BULLY
2 SUKOB
3 CLICK
4 OH MY GHOST!

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2 MIAMI VICE
3 OH MY GHOST!
4 SUKOB

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3 OH MY GHOST!
4 SUKOB

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2 STORMBREAKER
3 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
4 SUKOB

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2 SUKOB
3 CLICK
4 OH MY GHOST!
5 THE BREAK-UP
6 STORMBREAKER

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2 CLICK
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"MONSTER House" is about a haunted mansion determined to eat every trick-or-treater on Halloween.

"LITTLE MAN." Groundbreaking special effects.

Interesting hooks in new flicks

By Nestor U. Torre

EACH MONTH, SCORES OF NEW movies are trotted out by producers and distributors for our cherished patronage, but only a few manage to catch our fancy. What makes one new film stand out over the rest in terms of potential audience appeal?

Star value is one factor that is of special worth among Filipino moviegoers. Film type is another draw, particularly with viewers who are almost exclusively turned on by action films, romantic comedies or thrillers and chillers.

Proposition

A third factor is the "hook"—a film's "unique viewing proposition" that tickles viewers' fancy and makes it a should-see in their book.

Examples of how hooks have resulted in hit films abound: The lovable green ogre as the star of "Shrek"; Tom Hanks playing a kid who becomes a man overnight in "Big"; Johnny Depp as a campy, even swishy pirate in "Pirates of the Caribbean," etc.

New examples about to hit the screen include: "Little Man," a comedy in which groundbreaking special effects magically transform the 6'2" Marlon Wayans into the film's title character, who stands only 2'6" (how's that for perfect height reversal?).

In the edgy flick, Shawn Wayans is so eager to become a father that he mistakes a short, baby-faced thief (Marlon) for an abandoned toddler. He and his wife take the "baby" into their home, while the thief's partner tries to help him recover a stolen diamond.

Once inside Shawn's home, however, the cynical thief finds life as a "baby" a living hell and retrieving the diamond much tougher than he thought, so the comedic fireworks start to fly.

The new animated feature, "Monster House," also has a fun if spooky hook in its plot premise about a haunted house that's determined to eat every trick-or-treater in sight on Halloween!

"JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE." Revenge comedy features (from left) Brittany Snow, Metcalfe, Bush, Ashanti and Kebbel.

Three kids

Deciding to prevent the voracious house from doing its worst, three kids unlock its mystery and experience the greatest adventure of their lives.

And in the sassy teen comedy, "John Tucker Must Die," three popular girls are pushed to their breaking point when they find out that they are dating the same guy (Jesse Metcalfe) at the same time!

Vengeful trio

After comparing notes, the vengeful trio (Arielle Kebbel, Ashanti, Sophia Bush) conspire to teach Tucker a lesson he'll never forget.

This is a fun premise especially for female viewers, because it gives them a "safe" way of getting back at the cads who have taken them for a ride in their own lives.

Note that the three movies cited here don't have big stars. Despite this lack of major stellar appeal, however, their target audiences should be making a mental note to see them, because their curiosity has been piqued by these productions' respective "hooks."

Contemporary sound...

From page G3

performance from Jack Rufo), while The Dawn waxes a rousing rockabilly number in "Bawa't Bata."

Shamrock and Sandwich also lend their peculiar musical stamps in their respective covers of "Paano" and Bakit ang Babae."

Innovations

Other tracks, more or less, follow the originals' structure and arrangement, with few innovations here and there: Orange and Lemons' "Yakap sa Dilim," Parokya ni Edgar's "Pumapatak ang Ulan," Itchyworms' "Awit ng Barkada," Sponge Cola's "Nakapagtataka," Sugarfree's "Batang-bata Ka Pa," Moonstar 88's "Panalangin." But, these bands' fans will no doubt appreciate how they have lent their unique sound to breath new life into Apo's classics.

Purists

Purists may grudgingly look for the sleek, sobering quality that has endeared Apo to fans and OPM music buffs, but "Kami nAPO Muna" successfully revives the trio's timeless music for the youthful new breed of music enthusiasts to appreciate.

If you're not happy with the new sound, however, you can always pop Jim, Danny and Boboy's original albums into the CD player!

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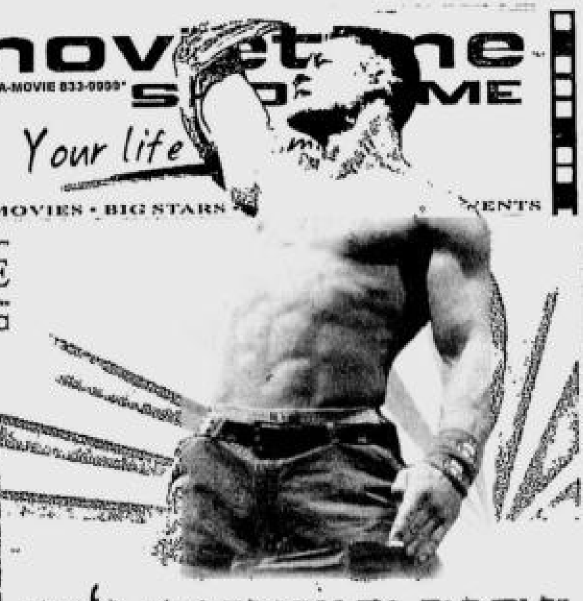

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2 MORTUARY
3 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
4 CLICK
5 SUKOB
6 KUBRADOR/AMERICAN DREAMZ
PREMIERE CINEMA
OH MY GHOST
DIRECTOR'S CLUB
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CINEMA 2
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2 AMERICAN DREAMZ
3 STORMBREAKER
4 CLICK
5 SUKOB
6 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
7 MIAMI VICE
8 OH MY GHOST
9 KUBRADOR
10 MORTUARY
11 CLICK
12 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2

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1 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
2 AMERICAN DREAMZ
3 CLICK
4 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
5 MIAMI VICE
6 STORMBREAKER
7 MORTUARY
8 KUBRADOR
9 OH MY GHOST
10 SUKOB
11 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
12 SUPERMAN RETURNS

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1 MORTUARY
2 JUST MY LUCK
3 LADY IN THE WATER
4 MIAMI VICE
5 CLICK
6 OH MY GHOST
7 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
8 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
9 SUKOB
10 STORMBREAKER
11 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
12 FIERCE CREATURE

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 CLICK
3 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
4 OH MY GHOST
5 SUKOB
6 MORTUARY
7 MIAMI VICE
8 STORMBREAKER
9 AMERICAN DREAMZ
10 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
3 CLICK
4 MORTUARY
5 OH MY GHOST
6 SUKOB

SM CITY SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 OH MY GHOST
3 SUKOB
4 MORTUARY
5 CLICK
6 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
7 AMERICAN DREAMZ
8 STORMBREAKER
9 KUBRADOR

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 OH MY GHOST
3 CLICK
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1 MORTUARY
2 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
3 STORMBREAKER
4 CLICK
5 JUST MY LUCK
6 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
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10 MIAMI VICE
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1 MIAMI VICE
2 OH MY GHOST
3 SUKOB
4 CLICK

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
1 CLICK
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
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3 CLICK
4 SUKOB

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17
1 CLICK
2 OH MY GHOST
3 SUKOB
4 ANT BULLY

SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868
1 STORMBREAKER
2 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
3 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
4 SUKOB
5 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
6 OH MY GHOST
7 CLICK
8 FIERCE CFREATURE

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
1 CLICK
2 OH MY GHOST
3 STORMBREAKER
4 SUKOB

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
1 SUKOB
2 ANT BULLY
3 CLICK
4 OH MY GHOSTZ

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 THE BREAK-UP
3 CLICK
4 JUST MY LUCK
5 OH MY GHOST
6 SUKOB

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85
1 SUKOB
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 CLICK
4 STORMBREAKER
5 THE BREAK-UP
6 OH MY GHOST

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160
1 OH MY GHOST
2 ANT BULLY
3 MIAMI VICE
4 SUKOB

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5341265-66
1 CLICK
2 ANT BULLY
3 OH MY GHOST
4 SUKOB

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 CLICK
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 MIAMI VICE
4 JUST MY LUCK
5 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
6 OH MY GHOST
7 SUKOB
8 MIAMI VICE

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1 THE BREAK-UP
2 RESERVED
3 SUKOB
4 TAMARA
5 CLICK
6 OH MY GHOST
7 RESERVED
8 JUST MY LUCK

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1 MIAMI VICE
2 SUKOB
3 LOVEWRECKED
4 OH MY GHOST
5 CLICK
6 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND

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CLICK 12:25 / 2:45 / 5:05 / 7:25 / 9:45
KUBRADOR 2:00 / 4:20 / 6:40 / 9:00
OH MY GHOST 1:00 / 3:10 / 5:20 / 7:30 / 9:40
Globe PLATINUM CINEMA
ANT BULLY 12:50 / 2:50 / 4:50
MIAMI VICE 6:50 / 9:40
SUKOB 2:20 / 4:40 / 7:00 / 9:20
MOONRISE FILM FESTIVAL 2006 10:30 am - 10:30 pm
MY SUPER X-GIRLFRIEND 2:20 / 4:40 / 7:00 / 9:20
ALIMALL 5
1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2 12:00 / 2:50 / 5:40 / 8:30
2 MY SUPER X-GIRLFRIEND 12:10 R4 / 1:30 / 3:50 / 6:10 / 8:30
3 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2 12:15 / 3:05 / 5:55 / 8:45
4 SUKOB 1:10 / 3:30 / 5:50 / 8:10
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NOW SHOWING

Uma Thurman dazzles in lackluster comic romp

WILSON AND THURMAN. Love on the rocks.

By Rito P. Asilo

"My Super Ex-Girlfriend"
D: Ivan Reitman
S: Uma Thurman, Luke Wilson

BAD BOYFRIENDS, BEWARE: HELL HATH no fury like a (super) woman scorned. Architect Matt Saunders (Luke Wilson) finds out just how "hazardous" spiting a woman can get when he decides to break up with art dealer Jenny Johnson (Uma Thurman), a beautiful, seemingly perfect woman he dumps after finding her too "needy, jealous and controlling," this despite fabulous bed-breaking, wall-crushing sex—literally!

To Matt's consternation, the emotional basket case he doesn't want to have anything to do with turns out to be the world's No. 1 superheroine, G-Girl—who wears her super broken heart on her steely sleeve and displays her darker, loony-when-jealous side with vengeful abandon to appease her shattered self-esteem.

Suddenly, Matt finds himself in embarrassing and increasingly life-threatening situations: First, he finds his lost car floating in outer space. Then, he ends up buck naked in front of business associates and prospective clients—an unfortunate "stunt" that, of course, gets him fired from work.

Worse, he not only has to protect his pet goldfish from getting fried *via* revenge-thirsty G-Girl's X-ray vision, he also has to fend off live sharks thrown his way after Jenny finds him in bed with his new squeeze, Hannah (Anna Faris)!

Whom does a guy call when his spurned super ex-girlfriend goes berserk? The similarly-spurned super villain (who happens to be in love with her), that's who! *That* should do the trick—or does it?

Unfortunately, the film's director, Ivan Reitman ("Dave," "Ghost Busters"), despite entertaining expository flourishes (Matt's best buddy, himself a kook, cautions him about the needy-girlfriend trifecta), runs out of fresh new storytelling tricks for his worn-out, scorned-woman story.

Fluffy and feather-light, the movie scores and hits its comedic stride courtesy of Uma's goddess-like presence, even when she's acting loony! It's like watching "Kill Bill," but without the *ninja* sword and the cape.

Even when Thurman is garbed in her nerdy, mousy character's drab get-ups, it's hard to suspend disbelief that she's having sleepless nights over emotionally inaccessible men. Why would someone who looks like her be interested in cooking dinner for a handsome but bland fellow like Matt, when she can seek out Clark Kent, Peter Parker or Hal Jordan elsewhere in her parallel universe? But, we're getting carried away here…

Indeed, Reitman's cautionary tale doesn't just dangle the sword of Damocles over generically heartless cads who take love and romance for granted. Yes, women who hurdle life's romantic challenges with great patience and sobriety can also snap when pushed to the wall.

When that happens, just pray that these wronged women don't hide behind secret super identities. After all, it's not easy to clean up after a humongous flesh-eating shark is shoved inside your bedroom!

Rey Valera performs in Australia

Singer-songwriter Rey Valera, who makes a lot of popular hit songs like, Pangako Sayo, Maging Sino Ka Man, has signed a contract with Shane Dutta, Jennifer Dutta Australian executive producers and Pat Salem Jr. director / producer of Brightstar Entertainment Production to perform a concert together with Rey Valera's children The Saling Ket Band (In picture: Pat Salem Jr., Rey Valera, Shane Dutta and Jennifer Dutta the producer and at the back are Saling Ket Band Joan Leigh, Valor, Clarrisse, & Greta). The concert will be held at Logan Entertainment Centre, Brisbane, Australia on 13th October 2006, produce by Brightstar Entertainment Production.
ADVT

'Supernova' premieres on Hallmark

MONTAGE

AT 9 P.M. ON AUG. 27, "SUPERNOVA" WILL be screened on the Hallmark Channel. The miniseries chronicles the day the world is about to be consumed by fire. Filmed in 27 locations around the globe, the original presentation shows the sun about to explode, leading to the end of the world in seven short days.

Luke Perry plays an astrophysicist, Tia Carrere is an NIA special agent, and Peter Fonda is a Nobel Prize-winning scientist. They provide the planet its only hope of avoiding total destruction.

PERRY AND CARRERE. Topbill end-of-the-world TV thriller.

'Oh My Ghost'

Ruffa Mae Quinto and Marvin Agustin have a fun time scaring the heck out of each other in the current horror-comedy film, "Oh My Ghost," directed by Tony Y. Reyes.

The stars rave over Reyes' meticulous and expert handling of their scenes and the production's jaw-dropping special effects.

They share that they had "great chemistry" in their scenes together, and the other actors in the film (Paolo Contis, Carlos Agassi, Uma Khouny, Jose Manalo, Bianca King, Sugar, Jimmy Santos) add more fun and zest to the bubbling brew.

"Oh my Ghost" is an OctoArts presentation.

QUINTO AND AGUSTIN. Great chemistry.

Movies on TV

On HBO, Aug. 19 at 1 p.m., "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban." Aug. 20 at 8 p.m., "Lemony Snicket, A Series of Unfortunate Events." Aug. 21 at 3:30 p.m., "As Good As It Gets." Aug. 22 at 7:30 p.m., "Anchorman." Aug. 23 at 12:15 p.m., "The Fugitive." Aug. 24 at 4 p.m., "New York Minute." Aug. 25 at 8:30 p.m., "News on the Big Screen in August."

On Cinemax, Aug. 19 at 11:55 p.m., "Pleasantville." Aug. 20 at 5:30 p.m., "Sleepless in Seattle." Aug. 21 at 11:40 p.m., "Buffalo Soldiers." Aug. 22 at 8 p.m., "White Hunter, Black Heart." Aug. 23 at 8 p.m., "Arlington Road." Aug. 24 at 6;10 p.m., "The Big Chill." Aug. 25 at 1:15 p.m., "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind."

'One Tree Hill' on video

The six-disc DVD set of "One Tree Hill" contains all 22 episodes, plus bonus material like a behind-the-scenes featurette, unaired scenes and a gag reel. Available on Warner Home Video.

PANER. First major concert.

Discovery Channel exhibit

From Aug. 25 to 27 (10 a.m. to 9 p.m.), a Discovery Channel exhibit will be held at the Orosa Atrium of Robinsons Place Manila. It includes different booth activities and interactive science modules from Philippine Science Centrum. (A special MAD Science Experiment will be conducted at 4 p.m. on Aug. 27.) The exhibit moves over to the Glorietta 2 lobby from Sept. 8 to 10.

'Boarding House: North Shore'

At 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 22, the six-part series, "Boarding House: North Shore,' premieres on Channel [V]. The reality show focuses on seven professional surfers who live together in a beach house in Hawaii while competing against each other in the Vans Triple Crown of Surfing.

'Kung Faux'

'Kung Faux' debuts on Channel [V] at 8:30 tonight. The comedy TV series remixes *kung fu* movies with hit music, comic book-style editing, special effects, and dubbing done by hip-hop personalities.

'Little Man' premiere

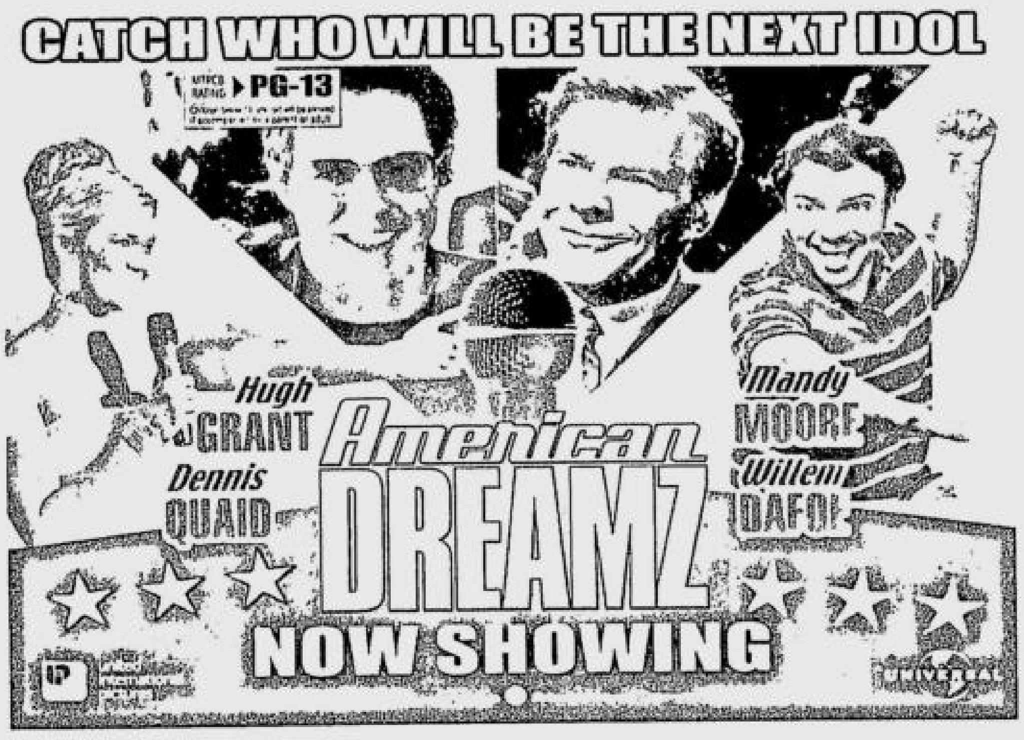
The gala premiere of "Little Man" will be held at SM Megamall on Aug. 22. In the comedy film, Shawn Wayans adopts a "baby" who turns out to be a short, baby-faced thief (Marlon Wayans) on the lam.

'Roman Technology'

At 10 p.m. on Aug. 21, the National Geographic Channel is airing a special "Naked Science" episode, "Roman Technology." It features the various technologies the Roman Empire established that, to this day, still serve as a blueprint for modern living.

Danita Paner

On. Sept. 14, Danita Paner stars in her first major concert at Music Museum. Her guests include Monty of Mayonaise, Tutti of Protein, Jeff of Soapdish and Piolo Pascual. Tickets at Music Museum, Ticketron, National Bookstore and Ticketworld outlets.



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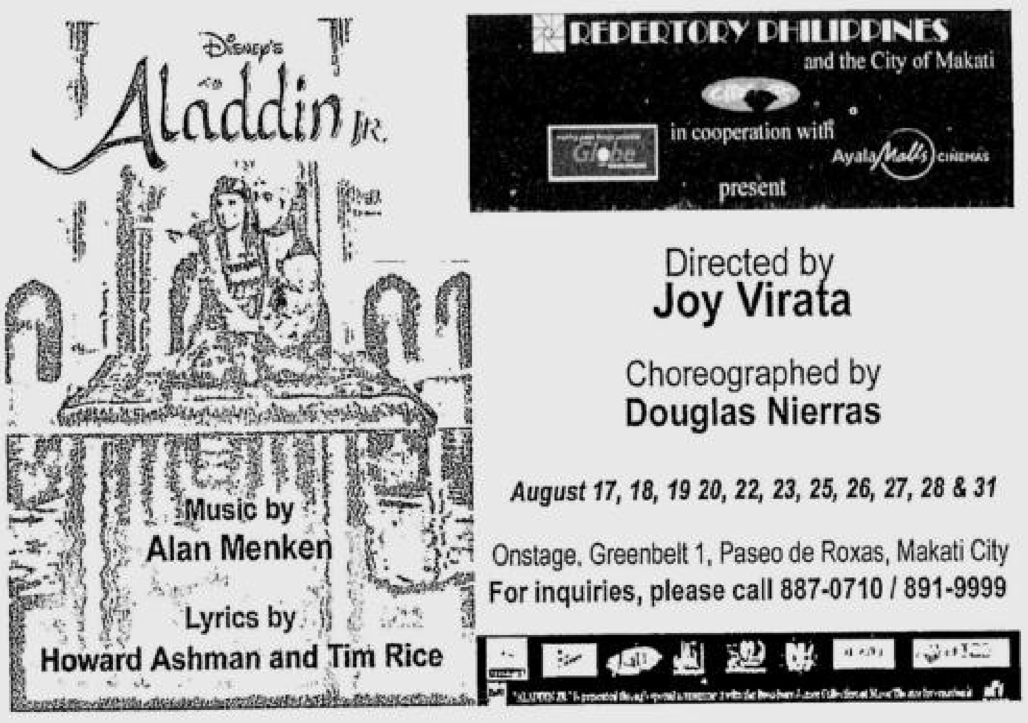

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Lyrics by
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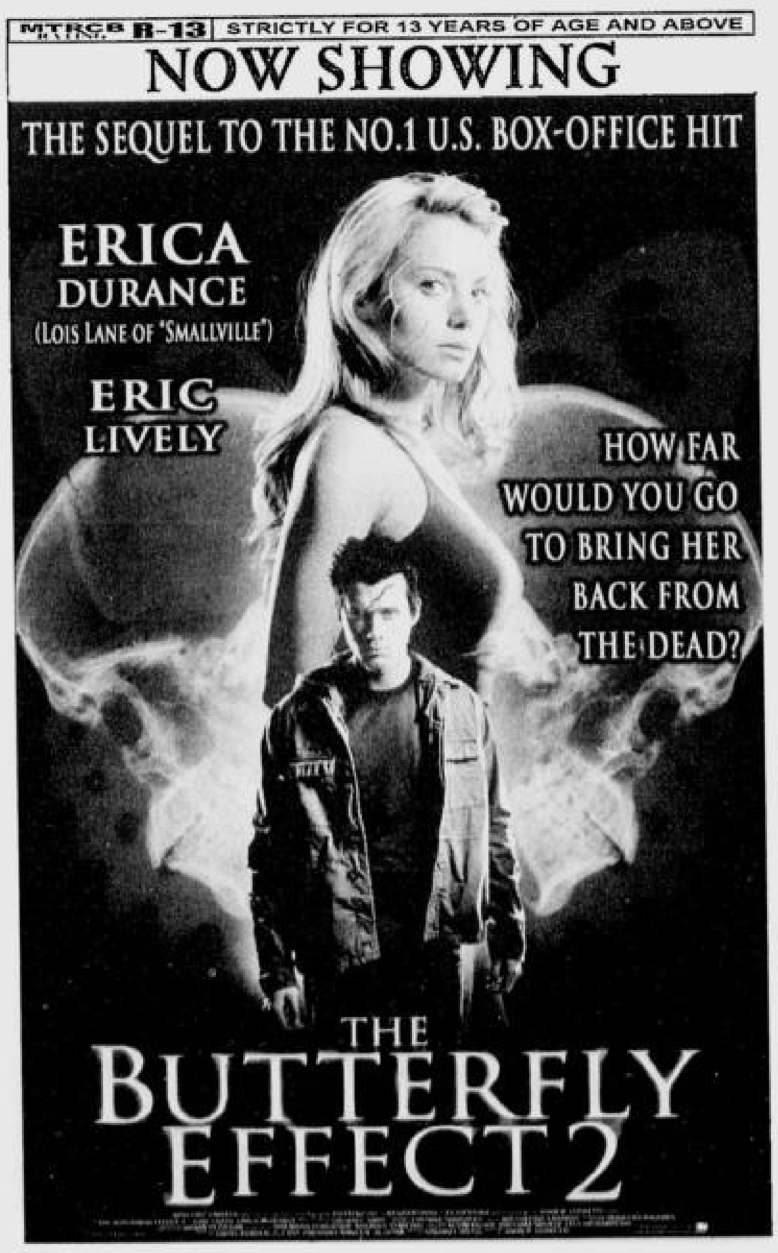

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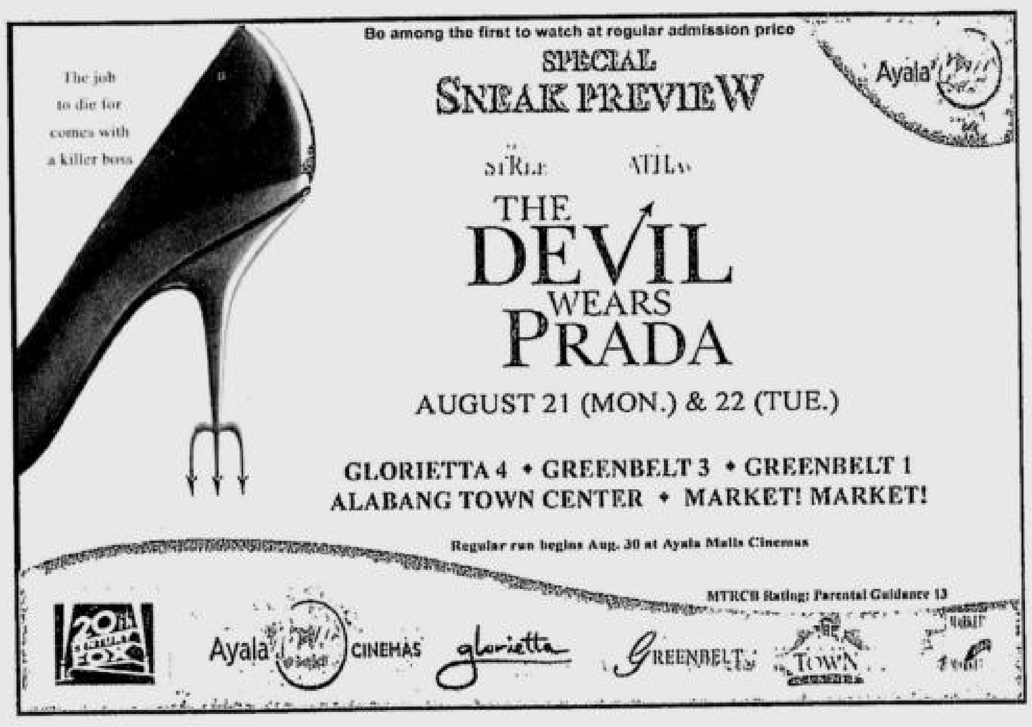

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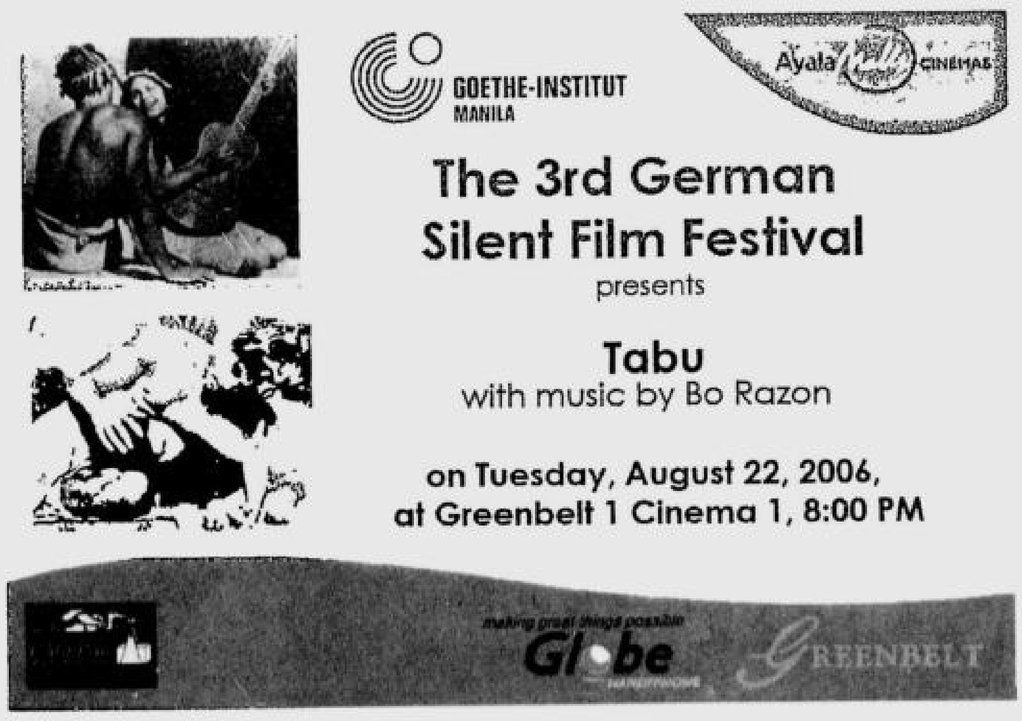

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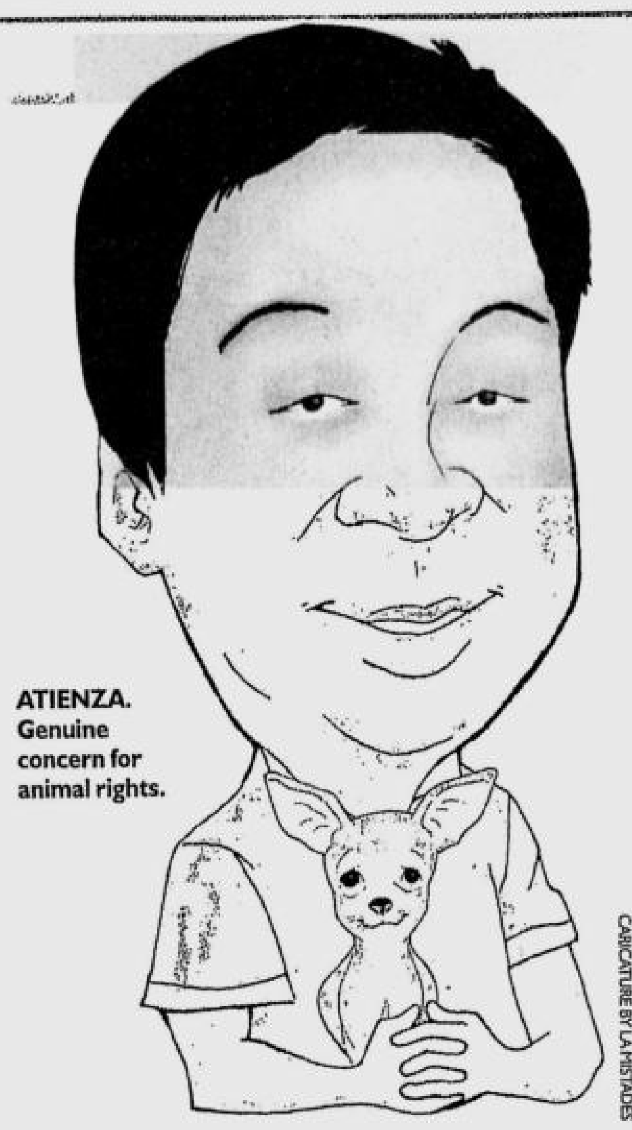
NEW MISSION for Kim Atienza



ATIENZA. Genuine concern for animal rights.

CARICATURE BY LA MISTADES

By Nestor U. Torre

WE'RE GLAD THAT KIM Atienza is now the new weather guy on ABS-CBN shows. Even better, he shares with viewers his genuine concern for animal rights and the conservation of endangered species.

Important service

We feel, however, that Kim could be of even more important service if he shifts his main focus from exotic animals like the porcupine and the armadillo, and concentrates instead on much more pervasive animal-related problems in this country.

Many Filipinos love their pets to bits, but some of them take very poor care of the animals placed in their care, and Kim would be of invaluable service to society—and to those oppressed animals—if he focused on this huge problem.

If he teams up with animal-rights groups and veterinarians, he could mount a much-needed information campaign to remind pet owners of their responsibilities to their furry wards.

All Kim (and the interested viewer) needs to do is to walk through an ordinary urban neighborhood, and the problems—and need for redress—will present themselves in no uncertain terms:

Pet dogs left to starve to death on a sidewalk. Unwanted kittens thrown away like so much garbage. Dogs without collars and leashes growling at and sometimes even attacking passersby.

Obligation

Animals with severe skin diseases left to fend for themselves by their turned-off owners. Cats foraging for food on trash heaps because their humans don't realize that they have the obligation to feed them.

Dogs on short leashes tied down in the heat of the sun or being rained on for hours on end. Animals maimed by vehicles left to heal by themselves, dragging their broken limbs with nobody thinking of helping them.

It's a tragedy and a scandal. And it speaks badly of people that allow these and other cruel ignominies to run rampant on our streets.

Responsibilities

That's why we believe that Kim, being a genuinely caring TV person, could do a lot to help mitigate these horrors by politely but firmly informing viewers about their responsibilities as pet owners.

There are many ordinances that penalize such infractions, but they are poorly enforced. So, we need animal rights advocates and concerned media people like Kim to weigh in with the informative and persuasive power of television to effect a major paradigm shift in erring Filipinos' attitudes and behavior when it comes to caring for animals.

Go for it, Kim, and we trust that your studio bosses and on-camera colleagues support you— all the way.

Ginger Rogers danced into moviegoers' hearts

By Behn Cervantes

IT WAS WELL-KNOWN IN HOLlywood that Ginger Rogers (real name: Virginia Katherine McMath) was a pious follower of the Christian Scientist sect. She did not believe that man-made chemicals were better than faith. She believed that, only by believing in Divine Healing could man be saved from earthly maladies.

Her zealous beliefs made the ambitious Rogers an extraordinary character who went to Tinseltown at age six, after her parents' divorce. Her mother first took her to New York to take singing and dance lessons to prepare the precocious youngster for a career in the performing arts.

Stage mother

Her stage mother allegedly charted her career ever since she made her professional debut at 14. The following year, she joined and won a Charleston competition. Then, she danced in the vaudeville circuit, where the young lass met and married her first husband, Jack Pepper, who performed with her as Rogers and Pepper. The partnership ended in divorce.

Mama Rogers approved and disapproved not only Ginger's film projects, but also the men she dated. Since Ginger was a vibrant and sexy beauty, Hollywood's handsome bachelors pursued her. She had five husbands, including Lew Ayres and Jacques Bergerac.

After appearing as the second lead in the Broadway musical, "Top Speed," and George Gershwin's "Girl Crazy," she began her Hollywood career playing supporting roles in Paramount's features. But, she was playing women older than her age. She was later signed on by Pathe to appear as a wisecracking blonde in their movies.

Popularity

Her popularity reached its peak when she teamed up with Fred Astaire in a series of musicals that saw the duo dance from New York to Rio.

She later took umbrage over the fact that the people referred to those dance classics as "Astaire films." She said it was "more difficult to dance backwards in high heels!"

Due to legal reasons, Astaire alone owned the rights to their successful dance productions. When a festival to honor their tandem was to be held, Astaire's widow refused to give permission to show their movies. This riled the iconic Ms Rogers.

By the 1940s, she had gone on her own and proved herself both versatile and bankable. She even nabbed an Oscar for her performance in "Kitty Foyle." She remained a major star till the late '50s.

ROGERS. "It's more difficult to dance backwards in high heels!"

Immortality

Rogers acted in a few more films in the '60s, including the role of Jean Harlow's stage mother. In 1969, she scored another triumph when she played "Mame" in London. But, it cannot be denied that she had won show biz-immortality as the much-admired other half of the Rogers-Astaire dance duo.

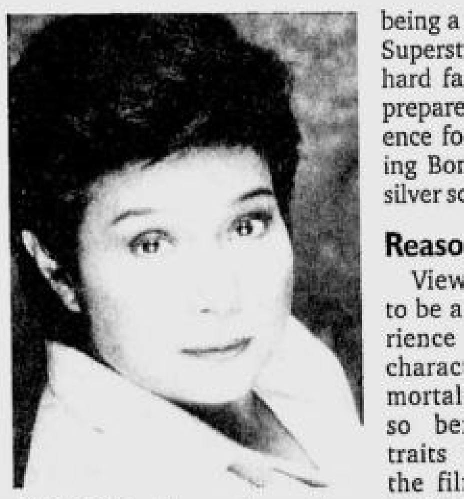
'Bona' disturbs audiences anew

By Ramon E. Bayron

LEADING CABLE MOVIE CHANNEL, Cinema One, recently hosted an invitational special screening of Lino Brocka's 1980 classic, "Bona," starring Nora Aunor and Phillip Salvador, to herald the film's return to circulation after several years of absence.

Consent

With its local prints lost and/or destroyed, it took the combined efforts of ABS-CBN, the French Embassy in Manila and La Cinemathique Française (which provided the mint video archival version of the film), plus the consent of Aunor as the film's producer, to bring back this cinematic gem, which was screened at the prestigious Cannes Film Festival in 1980.



AUNOR. Reviving a cinematic gem.

With a majority of the audience predominantly in their 30s and younger, many were certainly guilty of not having seen the film prior to this screening. They only had a vague idea of it being a movie where "Nora, the Superstar, played Bona, the diehard fan." Nothing could have prepared the uninitiated audience for the experience of seeing Bona's story unfold on the silver screen.

Reason

Viewing the movie proved to be a rather "difficult" experience for one reason: The character Aunor chose to immortalize onscreen was a role so bereft of "sympathetic" traits that, halfway through the film, an ordinary viewer would most likely ask, "Why is Bona doing what she's doing?"

A movie to endear the Superstar to her fans, this definitely is not. Nor will "Bona" provide the viewer the sweet satisfaction of a "resolution that ends on a hopeful note," another element almost all major stars and producers demand from a screenplay.

Screenwriter Cenen Ramones and director Lino Brocka could not have been blessed with a more supportive "crazy" producer and actress than Nora.

Simply put, no other producer would have spent for a project like "Bona," and no actress concerned with her image would have accepted it.

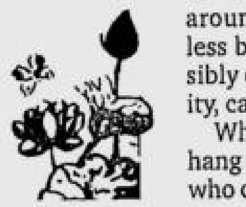
Testament

On hindsight, this movie, perhaps more than any other film, is a testament to the artistic temperament and nature of Aunor.

The production richly deserves to be seen again. It's not hard to identify with the protagonist, a character so blinded by her own passions that she forgets to see her decaying world—until it's too late!

The good life

LOTUS POND



R. Valencia and S. Bismark

THESE DAYS, TELEVISION PROgrams feature exhilarating feats and exciting concepts that show amazing races, great adventures, extreme sports or fantastic journeys. We always crave for challenge and excitement to entertain us. And we all want the good life.

Thoughts

Some people believe that God doesn't share the kind of mortal existence that we live. Some thoughts:

1. God is the Supreme Judge who sits all day to pass judgment on millions of people who are awaiting sentence: He evaluates the evidence and decides on the appropriate punishment. It's a tedious job. (Don't be too hard on the judge—give Him a break!)

2. God is likened to an old man with a white robe, who sits around with angels all day. (He's not just someone with white hair, wrinkly face, flabby muscles and thinning hair.)

3. Some people think of Him as a formless spirit floating around us. (If He's just a formless ball of energy, He can't possibly engage in any type of activity, can he?)

Who then would choose to hang around with a Special Being who can't have fun and indulge in great adventures? If we paint a boring picture of God, how can people fall in love with Him?

Youthful

Wise men say: "The Supreme Person is ever-fresh and youthful. He is most beautiful and attractive. His divine form is so inviting to the eyes—and hearts—of sincere souls. He is powerful—everything depends on Him. He delegates work to reliable people who carry out His will.

Law of karma

"The law of karma is in place, and the nature of rewards and punishments takes its course. God is the Supreme Enjoyer: He goes off with His devotees to engage in thrilling and exciting adventures. Together, they share the good life—all the fun, without pain or injury."

Elsewhere is a world of adventure and excitement. We simply need to discover the special realm God lords over.

Remember: Seek and you shall find. So, let the greatest experience begin!

SHANG CINEPLEX
1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
MTRCB R-13
12:40, 3.00, 5.20, 7:40, 10:00
2 CLICK
MTRCB PG-13
12 00, 2 30, 5 00, 7 30, 10 00
3 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
MTRCB R-13 12 40, 3 00, 7 40
STORMBREAKER
MTRCB PG-13 5 20, 10 00
4 AMERICAN DREAMZ
MTRCB PG-13
2.15, 4 50, 7.25, 10:00
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8 reasons why this is the must-see movie of the year!
1. Know the truth about *jueteng,* the illegal numbers game.
2. **GINA PAREÑO** gives the best performance of her career.
3. **JEFFREY JETURIAN** directs the best movie of his career.
4. It was the unanimous choice of the FIPRESCI, the international film critics body, as Best Film in Competition at the 28th Moscow International Film Festival and the 8th OSIAN Cine Fan Festival of Asian Cinema. in New Delhi, India.
5. It won Best Picture and Best Actress at the 8th OSIAN Cine Fan Festival of Asian Cinema.
6. The Cinema Evaluation Board (CEB) graded it A, the 1st for 2006.
7. It is officially selected to screen in the 50th London Film Festival, 51st Valladolid International Film Festival, 31st Toronto International Film Festival, 11th Pusan International Film Festival, 20th Hawaii International Film Festival, 30th Sao Paulo International Film Festival, 25th Vancouver International Film Festival, 33rd Brussels Independent Film Festival, 27th Thessaloniki International Film Festival, 6th Mumbai Asian Film Festival, 7th Rome Asiatica Film Mediale and then 2nd Antalya Eurasian Film Festival
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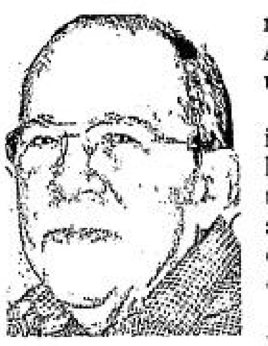
R-13
a film by JEFFREY JETURIAN

Romero goes digital in 'Nasaan ang Pag-ibig?'

By Ronald G. Mangubat


ROMERO. No sign of slowing down.

RECENTLY, WE WERE invited to De La Salle University's Bienvenido N. Santos Creative Writing Center to hear a lecture on "From Screenplay to Screen," featuring "Nasaan ang Pag-ibig?," the latest opus by National Artist for Film Eddie Romero, and co-written by Rica Arevalo.

Shot as a digital film, Romero's movie joins the works of young filmmakers who, of late, have been churning out "out-of-the-box" concept films that have been providing the much-needed shot-in-the-arm to our struggling movie industry.

Conviction

Romero, who in his 80s shows no sign of slowing down, cheerfully shared with his audience how he got attracted to the digital medium. He said that by joining the bandwagon, he is bridging the gap between what many directors complain about regarding their uncompromising conviction and artistic demands.

"Even in the United States, filmmakers are going digital," he pointed out. "We hope that, through this project, we could also appeal to film distributors."

What is instructive in the writing of "Nasaan ang Pag-ibig?" is how Romero collaborates with a young screenwriter like Arevalo, herself a digital filmmaker (having written and directed last year's award-winning "ICU Bed # 7").

Chance

Impressed with Arevalo's talent, Romero met with Rica and discussed a story that has been playing in his mind for sometime. Arevalo, who confessed to have dropped her other projects for a chance to work with the much-revered National Artist for Film, took up the challenge.

After several meetings, Rica says a healthy kind of mentor-student relationship ensued, and both of them learned from each other.

"Mr. Romero was very open to ideas," the Palanca awardee muses. "He would e-mail me his script written in English, and I would translate it into Filipino with my personal inputs. Then, he would make his comments."

After several months, the screenplay was finalized and an easy eight-day shoot followed. "It worried me that things went too easily. Locations were readily available, the cast (including Christopher de Leon, Angel Aquino, Bembol Rocco, Juliana Palermo and Alfred Vargas) was very cooperative, the equipment we used was portable, and changes in lighting set-up were quick."

Mysterious letters

Although principal photography is not yet finished, there is already a rough-cut edit of "Nasaan ang Pag-ibig?" In fact, Dr. Doy del Mundo's Communication Arts students were privileged to view two scenes from Romero's new movie, a romantic comedy about a series of mysterious letters and how they affect the principal characters.

"Do the characters in your film come from real life, or are they merely fictional?," a student asked Romero. He wittily observed: "Everybody is fictional *and* real at the same time!"

And what advice could the National Artist for Film give to aspiring screenwriters and filmmakers? In a nutshell, he shared: "Don't be overwhelmed by the medium—it's just a tool. Focus on good storytelling, and learn to collaborate!"

Photo exhibit

STREET SMART
Mandy Navasero

A SPECIAL PHOTO EXHIBIT featuring Batanes and other destinations will be mounted from Aug. 24 to 27 at the North Court of the Rockwell Power Plant Mall.

Judges for the five best travel photographs are Eric Torres (chairman), Eugenia Duran-Apostol, Lilen Uy and Lorraine Belmonte.

Participants

Participants include Blessing Ajero, Dr. Alisa Bernan, May Bernate, Ralph Diaz, Rani Fernandez, Roxane Matsuda, Ioni Mendoza, Amanda Navasero, Liana Romulo, Dr. Monsy Velasquez, Lily Andaya, Rani Fernandez and Dr. Rogie Tangco.

Photographs will be auctioned off on Aug. 26 at 4 p.m. Proceeds will be used to help restore an Ivatan Stone House, a project of the Batanes Foundation for the benefit of the Ivatan Vernacular House Restoration and Conservation Program. Special guest is Butch Abad, an Ivatan.

CRUZ. Workshopper.

Two round-trip tickets to Batanes will be raffled off during the event, courtesy of Asian Spirit. Special thanks to workshop participants Liana Romulo and Rosan Cruz, Tita Trillo of Titania Wine Cellar and San Miguel Corp.

Email mandynavasero@yahoo.com.ph

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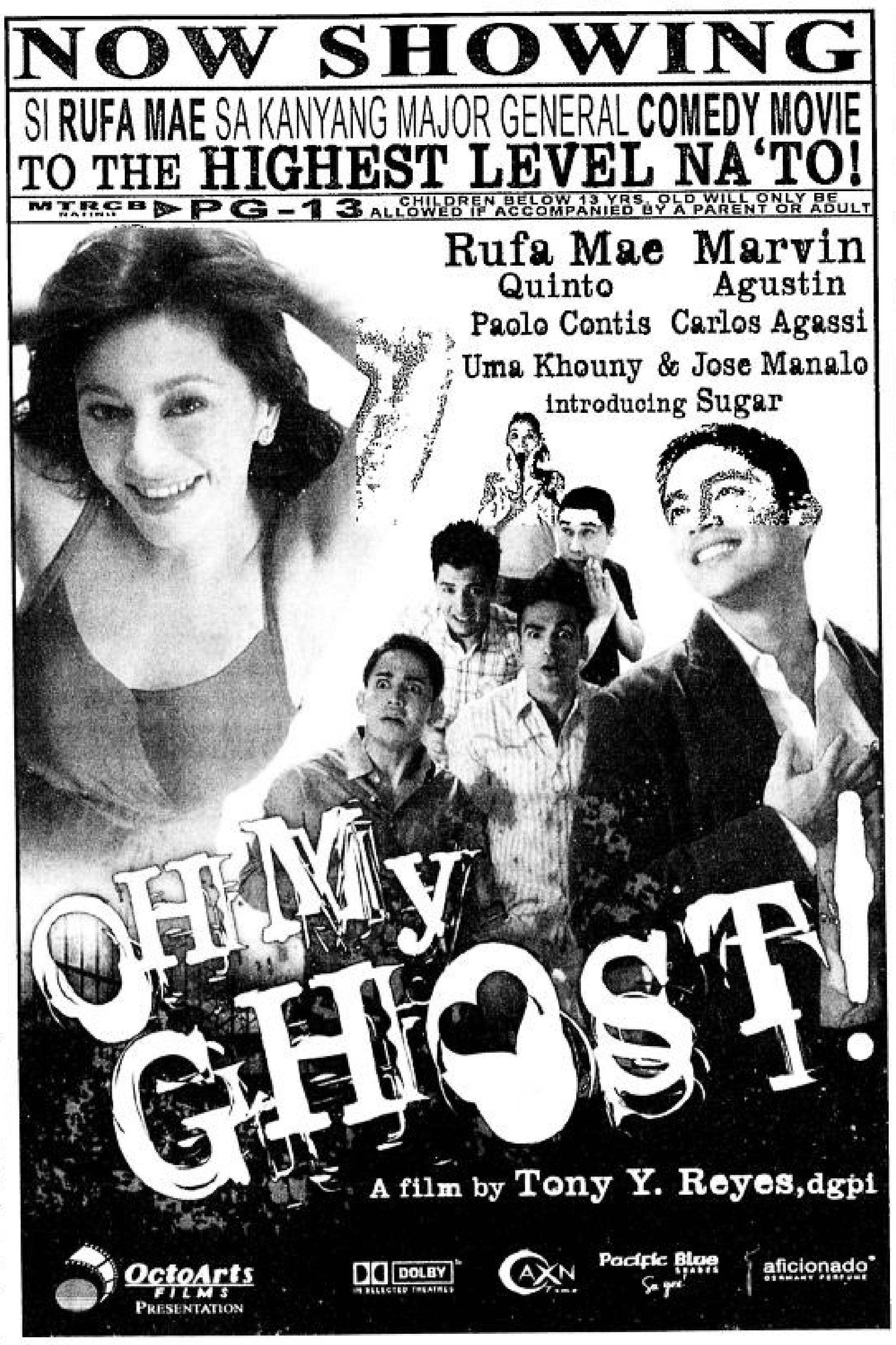
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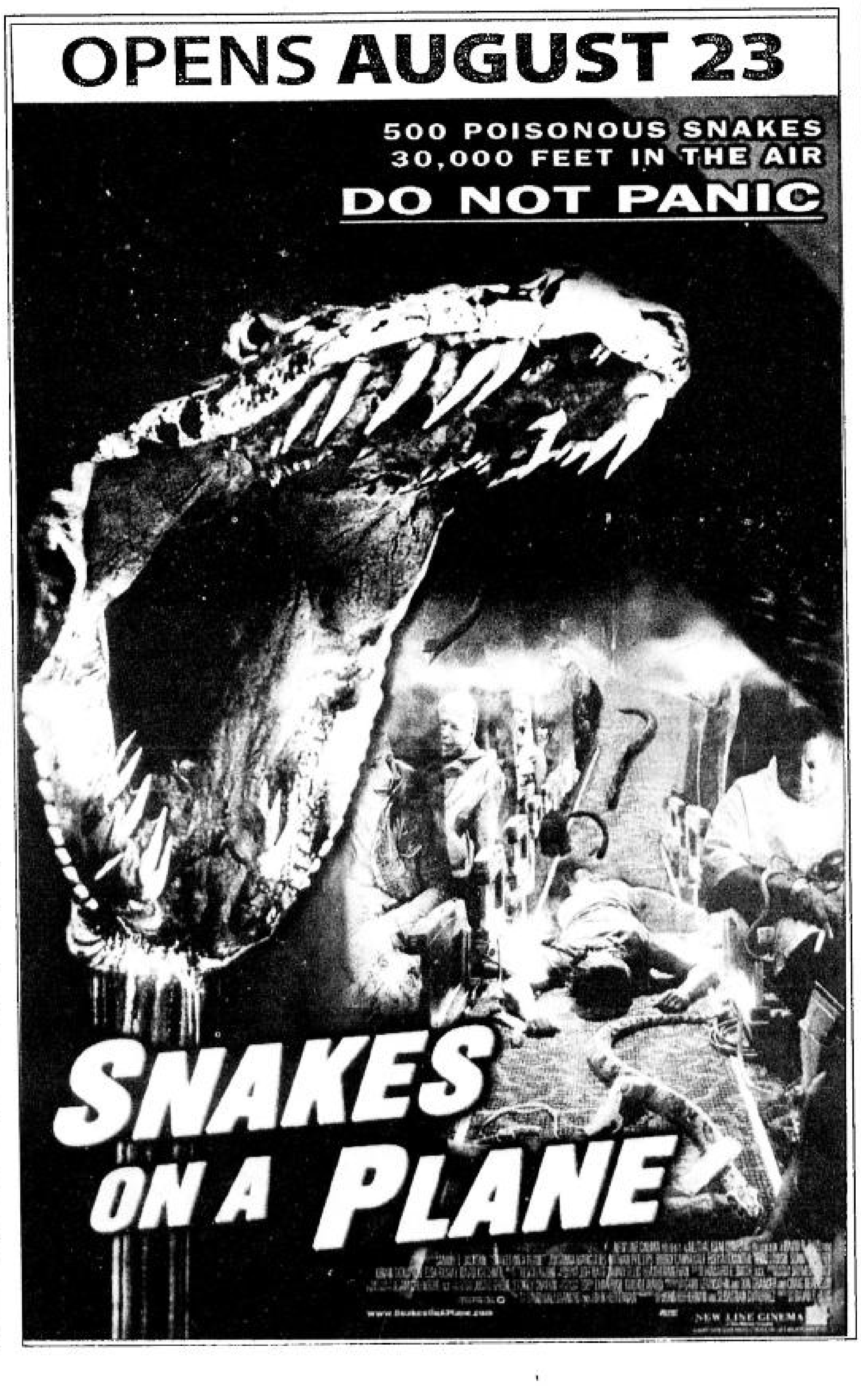
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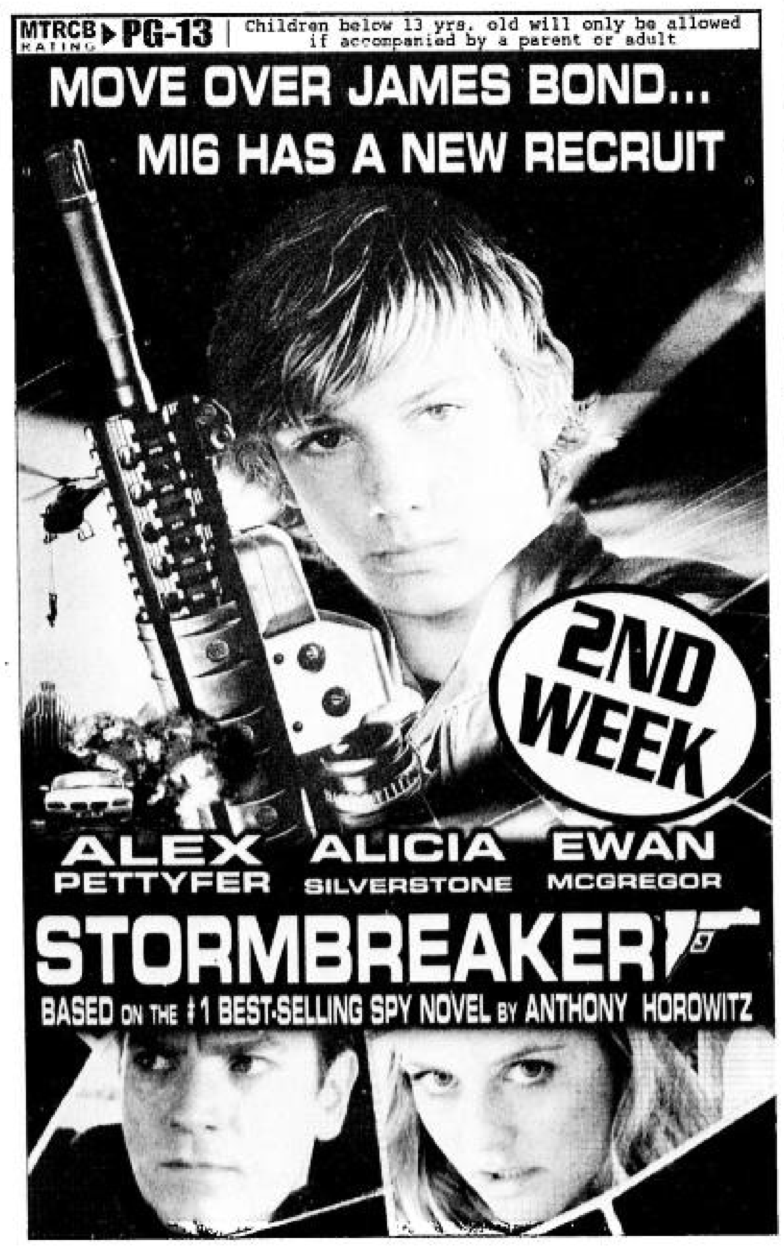
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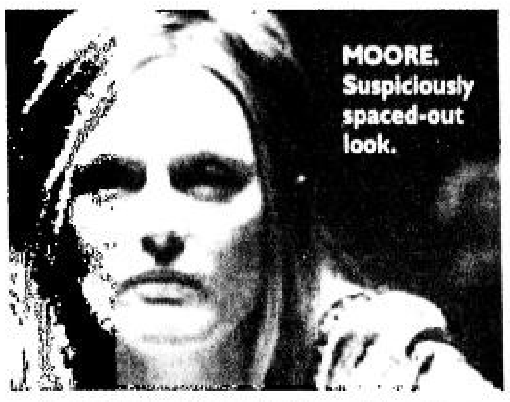
Few chills in mystery thriller

By Noelani Torre



MOORE. Suspiciously spaced-out look.

WATCHING "FREEDOMLAND" FLOUNDER its way across the screen is an experience you wouldn't want to repeat. Directed by Joe Roth, the movie runs for one hour and 40 minutes, but feels a lot longer.

Based on Richard Price's 1998 novel of the same title, "Freedomland" tells the tale of a white woman whose car—with her four-year-old son in the backseat—is allegedly hijacked by a black man.

Set in a fictional New Jersey suburb, the abduction/carjacking and the ensuing media frenzy further heighten the racial tension that sets off a violent string of events.

Detective

The movie starts off promisingly with shots of a patriarch-type detective (Samuel L. Jackson) dispensing help and advice in a housing project, interspersed with shots of a dazed and confused woman (Julianne Moore) wandering the streets. When she stumbles into a hospital emergency room, she leaves a bloody handprint on the door and the camera pans down to her bloody hands.

It feels too staged, but at this point, you're still willing to give the filmmakers the benefit of the doubt. It is established that there's going to be a mystery that will have to be solved, and that you will have the opportunity to watch two gifted actors perform.

Soon, however, the movie takes inexplicable turns, like the scene where Jackson's character, Detective Lorenzo Council, starts shouting at Brenda Martin (Moore) when he learns that she's not only been carjacked, but has had a child abducted as well.

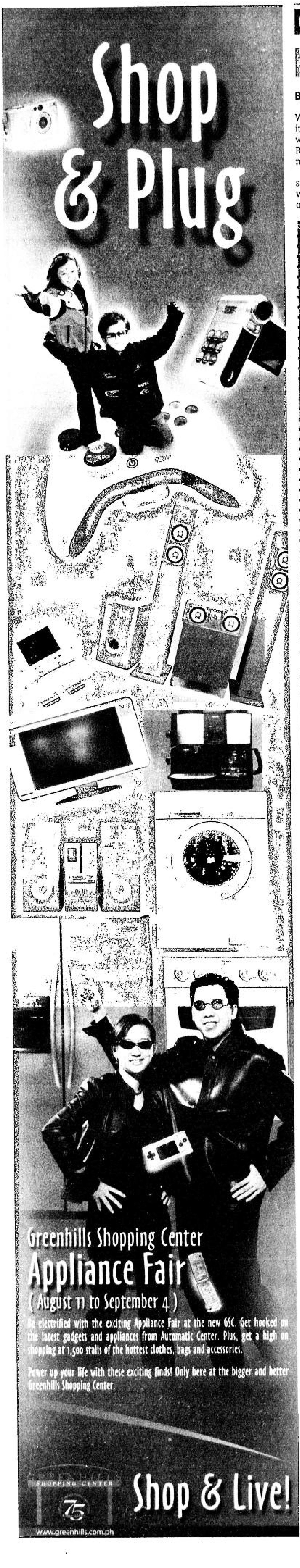
Distraught mothers

If Lorenzo is truly the 22-year veteran he's supposed to be, then surely he ought to know that screaming at distraught mothers is most definitely *not* in the rule book.

Moore's character goes through most of the movie as though she was in the middle of a breakdown, and she acts so suspiciously spaced-out that it's hard to believe a word she says. When she keeps refusing to repeat her statement, you can figure out the mystery before the first half-hour is over.

With the solution to the mystery now more or less obvious, the film loses a great deal of what little tension it has, and is helped not one bit by its rather preachy social commentary. As a result, the talented cast scrambles to take up the slack for Roth's haphazard directing.

Edie Falco, who plays the mother of a kidnapped child that has never been recovered, radiates with quiet intensity: She speaks of her own experience while wordlessly entreating Brenda to tell the truth about what really happened.



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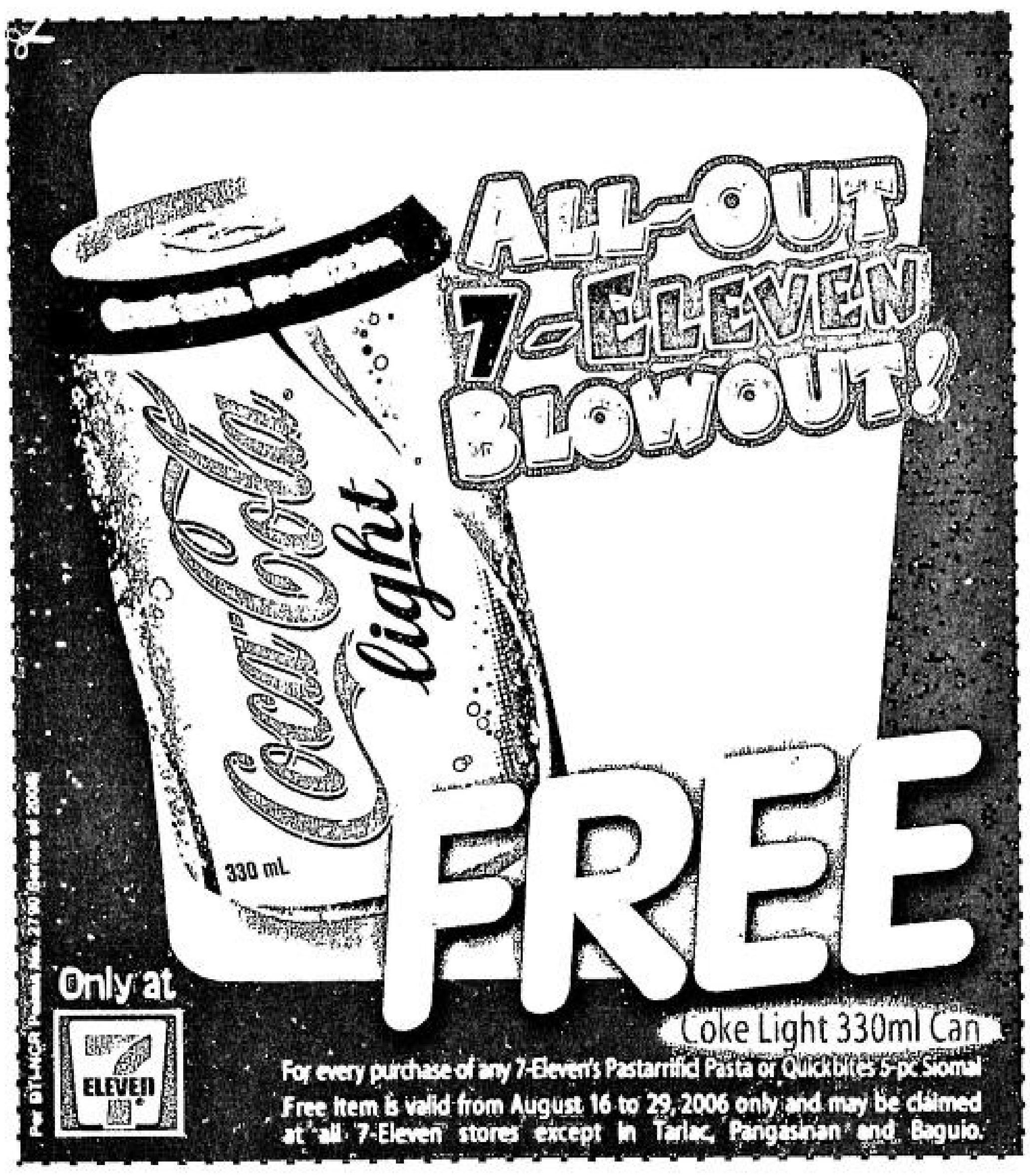

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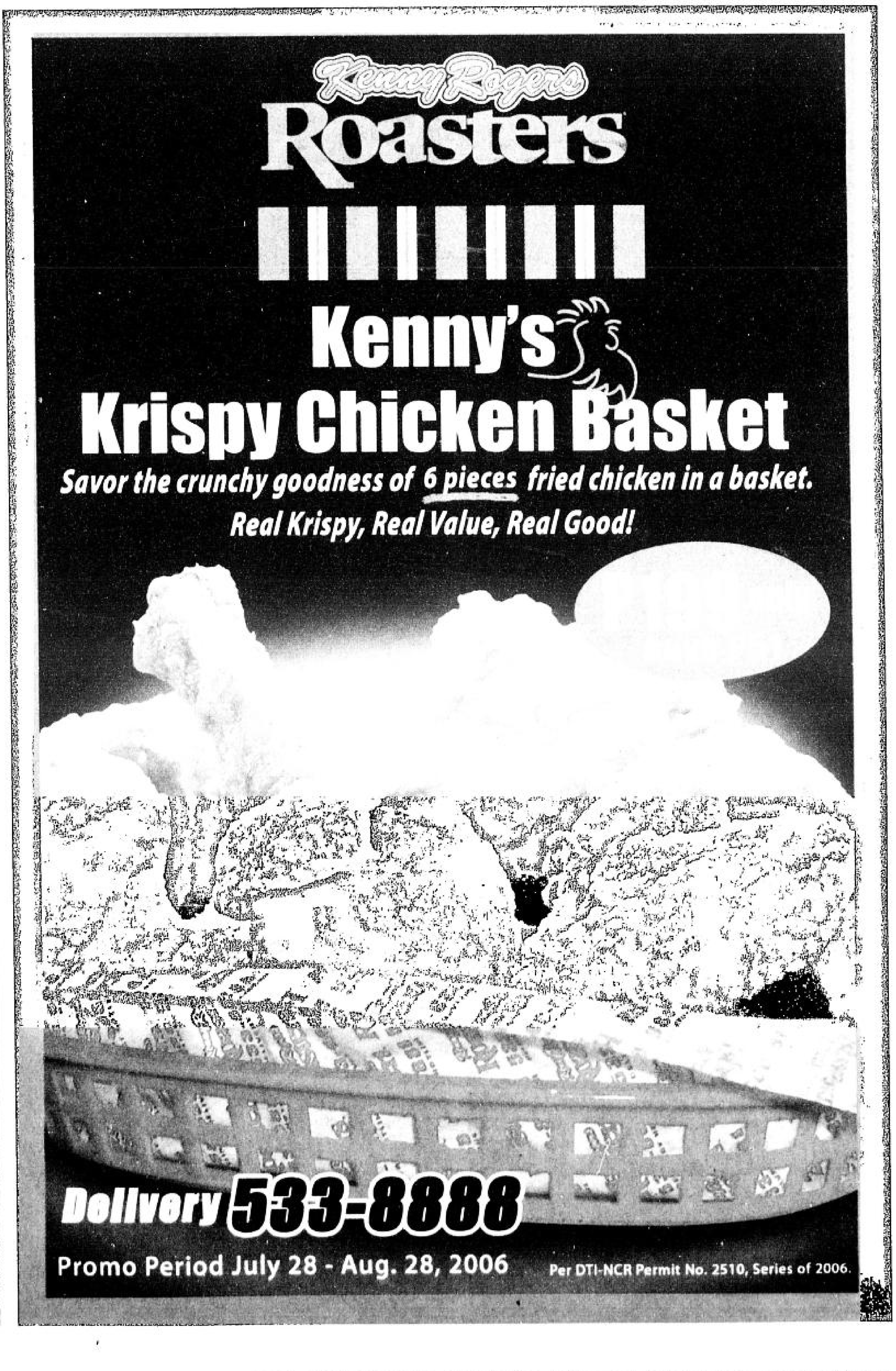

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